

***CHINKS PEAK/BLACKROCK CANYON
ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT
FOR
THE PROPOSED RESOURCE ACTIVITY PLAN
WITHIN THE POCATELLO SPECIAL
RECREATION MANAGEMENT AREA***



***IDAHO FALLS DISTRICT
POCATELLO RESOURCE AREA***

May 26, 1995

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BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

Upper Snake River Ecosystem
Pocatello Resource Area Office
1111 N. 8th Avenue
Pocatello, ID 83201-5789

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In Reply Refer To:

1619

June 30, 1995

Dear Interested User:

On May 25, 1995 I approved the Chinks Peak/Blackrock Canyon Resource Activity Plan and accompanying Environmental Assessment. A copy of that plan was sent to you on June 1, 1995. Since the approval of this plan, I have had to make several minor changes to the EA and Plan. The changes are:

- 1) On the maps identified as pages 9 and 14 from the Environmental Assessment and pages 10 and 15 in the Activity Plan the proposed road and access acquisition area(s) (T. 6 S. 35, sec. 25, and T. 6 S. R. 36 E., sec. 30) have been removed from the plan and are shown on the revised map pages 9, 10, 14 and 15 which are attached.
- 2) Page 4 of the Plan and EA, second sentence should read, to include only lands administered by the Bureau of Land Management.... This language was inadvertently left out of the EA and Plan, as the actions contained in this plan apply to BLM administered lands only.
- 3) Page 13 of the EA, item 5 under Access Acquisition, the 4th paragraph is removed.
- 4) Page 14 of the plan under Activity Plan Objective, the 3rd paragraph is removed.

We are still committed, as identified in the plan and EA, to locating and obtaining access from the top of Blackrock Canyon into the Buckskin/Moonlight Mountain area. This could involve the purchase of an easement across private lands on a willing seller/willing buyer transaction. No specific route has been identified at this time.

Please replace the maps currently in your plan with the ones I have enclosed and make the changes indicated with this errata sheet in your copy of the plan.

If you have questions regarding these changes, please feel free to contact me in this office (208)-236-6860.

Sincerely,

Jeff S. Steele
Area Manager

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FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

AND

DECISION RECORD

EA NUMBER: ID-030-95051

EA NAME: CHINKS PEAK/BLACKROCK CANYON RESOURCE ACTIVITY
ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

Environmental Compliance:

Based on the analysis of potential environmental impacts contained in the attached environmental assessment, I have determined that impacts are not expected to be significant and an environmental impact statement is not required.

Decision and Rational:

The accompanying Resource Activity Plan (Alternative B) for the Chinks Peak/Blackrock Canyon Planning Area has been determined to best meet the needs of all resources within the planning area. Based upon the Public Comments received during the comment period of February 1 to March 3, 1995, the Open House on February 2, 1995, and over 100 draft plans that were sent out to the public, it has been determined that this plan offers the best mix of options for improvement and sustainability of the resources for the long term.

The many comments received on the plan were either incorporated into the plan, or they were in direct conflict with the BLM's rules, regulations, and laws that it is directed to follow in the administration of the public lands.

This environmental assessment (EA) has been tiered to the following documents due to the fact that they have all been prepared and implemented within this planning area, with the exception of the EA prepared for the West Bench planning unit (last EA on this list), and all contain at least some pertinent information as it relates to this project. The information may relate to environmental impacts, affected environment, pertinent mitigation measures, and even in some cases a viable alternative:

- * Pocatello Off-Road Vehicle Designation Plan and Environmental Assessment; Burley District, August 15, 1980;

- * Pocatello Resource Area; Resource Management Plan/Environmental Impact Statement (RMP/EIS), Approved January 8, 1988;
- * USDA, Soil Conservation Service, September, 1987. Soil Survey of Bannock County Area, Idaho, Parts of Bannock and Power Counties;
- * Vegetation Treatment on BLM Land in Thirteen Western States Environmental Impact Statement, June 5, 1991;
- * Chinks Peak/Blackrock Canyon Road Realignment EA #ID-030-95045, signed April 7, 1995;
- * Katsilometes Cabin EA #ID-030-133, signed October 18, 1993;
- * Bitter Brush Planting EA #ID-030-5-033, signed March 1, 1995;
- * Blackrock Canyon ORMV (Off-Road Motor Vehicle) EA #ID-030-3-80, signed June 30, 1993;
- * Chinks Peak Fire Rehab, job #1582, signed August 30, 1974;
- * Caddy Canyon PUTR Planting CER # - ID-030-0-54CE, signed May 4, 1990;
- * Pocatello Mine Safety Fencing EA # - ID-030-9-20CE, signed December 7, 1988;
- * Pocatello Spring Development Programmatic EA# - ID-030-4-375, signed October 2, 1985;
- * Pocatello ORMV Trail Reconstruction and Rehabilitation EA# - ID-030-0-47, signed June 12, 1990.

ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED:

Alternatives A (no action) through D were all considered, but, it has been determined that Alternative B (proposed action as described in the EA) best meets the needed mix of protection for the resources and yet provides the best overall opportunities for the public within the planning area.

Alternative A (no action) would further implement the 1980 ORV plan, but, it would not allow for any further adoption/creation/rehabilitation of other roads or trails within the planning area. This alternative would allow the continued soil erosion that is beyond what is acceptable. Thus, alternative A would not meet the goals and objectives for the

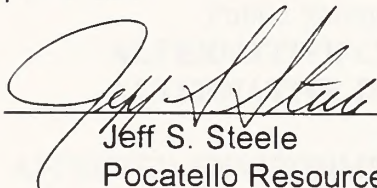
Pocatello RMP/EIS. The ORV Designation plan did not take into consideration the other resource uses within the planning area by coordinating those needs on a sustainable basis. It therefore was not considered nor evaluated within this environmental document. The 1988 Pocatello RMP/EIS directed the Resource Area to develop an activity plan for the Pocatello Special Recreation Management Area (SRMA) which the 1980 ORV Designation Plan did not do. Therefore, alternative A was not selected.

The impacts to the environment for alternative B (proposed action) have been fully addressed in the attached plan and therefore are not repeated in this document. The 1980 Environmental Assessment and the RMP/EIS adequately address many of the impacts to the resources. But, since some of the resources have had slight changes since those documents were prepared and approved, those changes have been discussed in detail in this document.

Alternative C was not chosen because it did not favor the best protection or coordination of the resources nor meet the overall input of the public based upon the comments and the issues that they raised. This alternative also maintained the current spring runoff restrictions (March 15 - May 15) for only part of the planning area. This is confusing to the general public in addition to not being enforceable due to not having any defined boundary lines with which the public could identify on the ground.

Alternative D was not selected as it maximized the amount of new construction in the planning area. This alternative would also have a detrimental effect on such resources as soils, critical winter wildlife habitat, and the vegetative resources. Due to the maximization of the recreation/off-road vehicle opportunities in this alternative, it was not considered nor analyzed throughout this environmental assessment.

This decision becomes final upon publication in the Federal Register as set forth in 43 CFR 8342.2. Publication is scheduled for July 1995 and the plan will take affect upon publication.



Jeff S. Steele
Pocatello Resource
Area Manager

Date: 5/25/95

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FIGURE 3: CURRENT ORV DESIGNATIONS

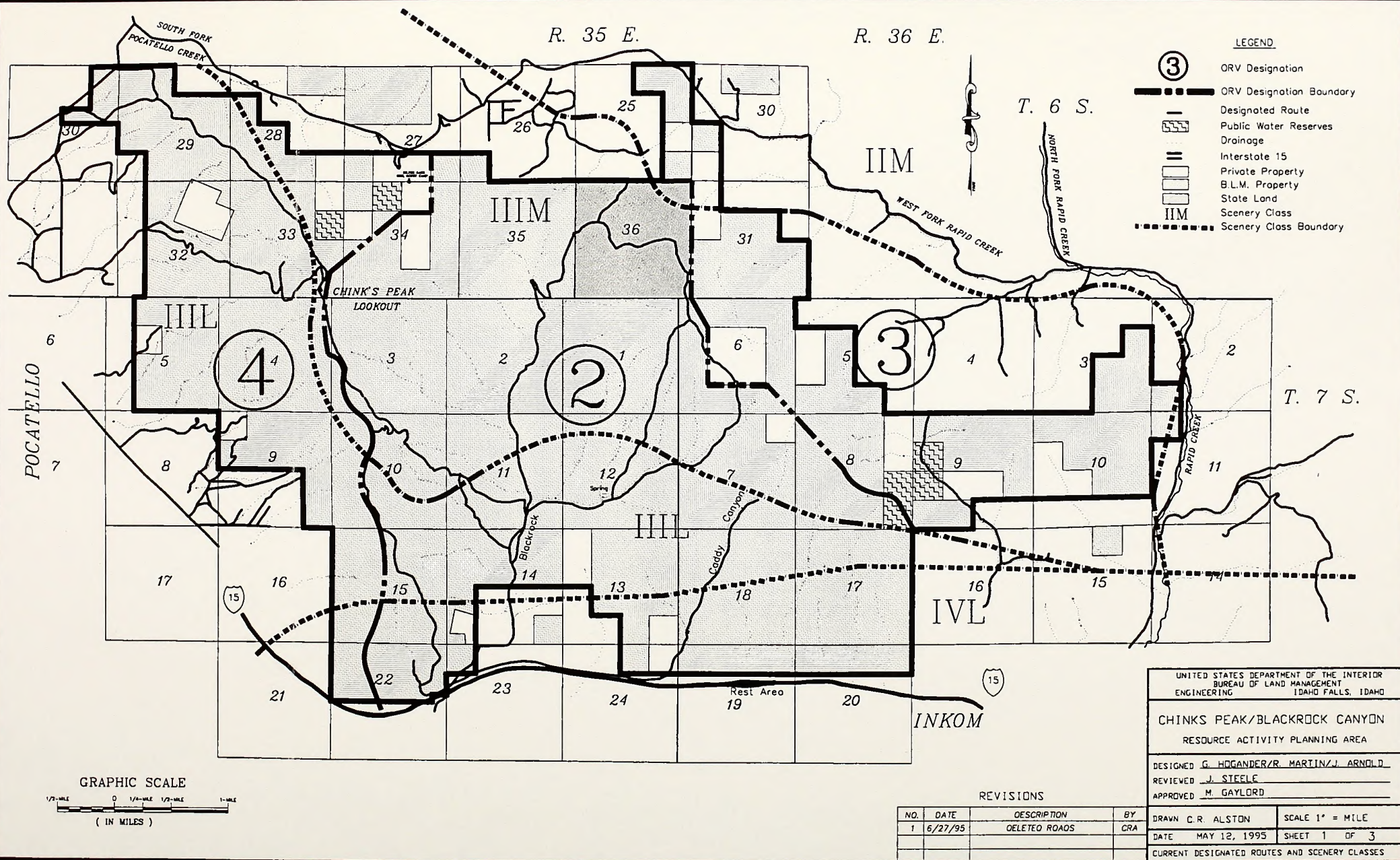


FIGURE 3: ORV DESIGNATIONS AND SCENERY CLASS

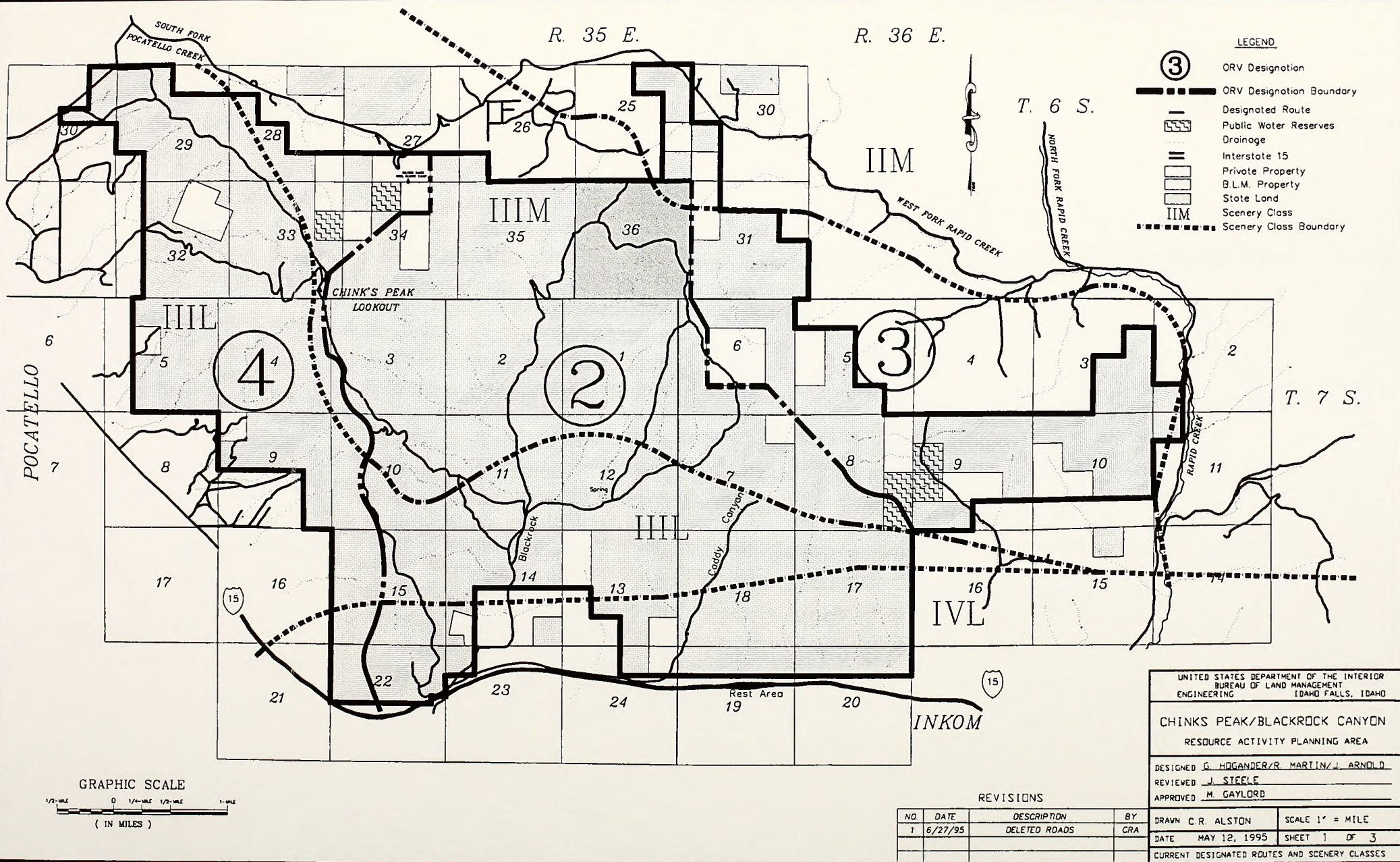


FIGURE 4: PROPOSED ROUTES AND ACCESS ACQUISITION

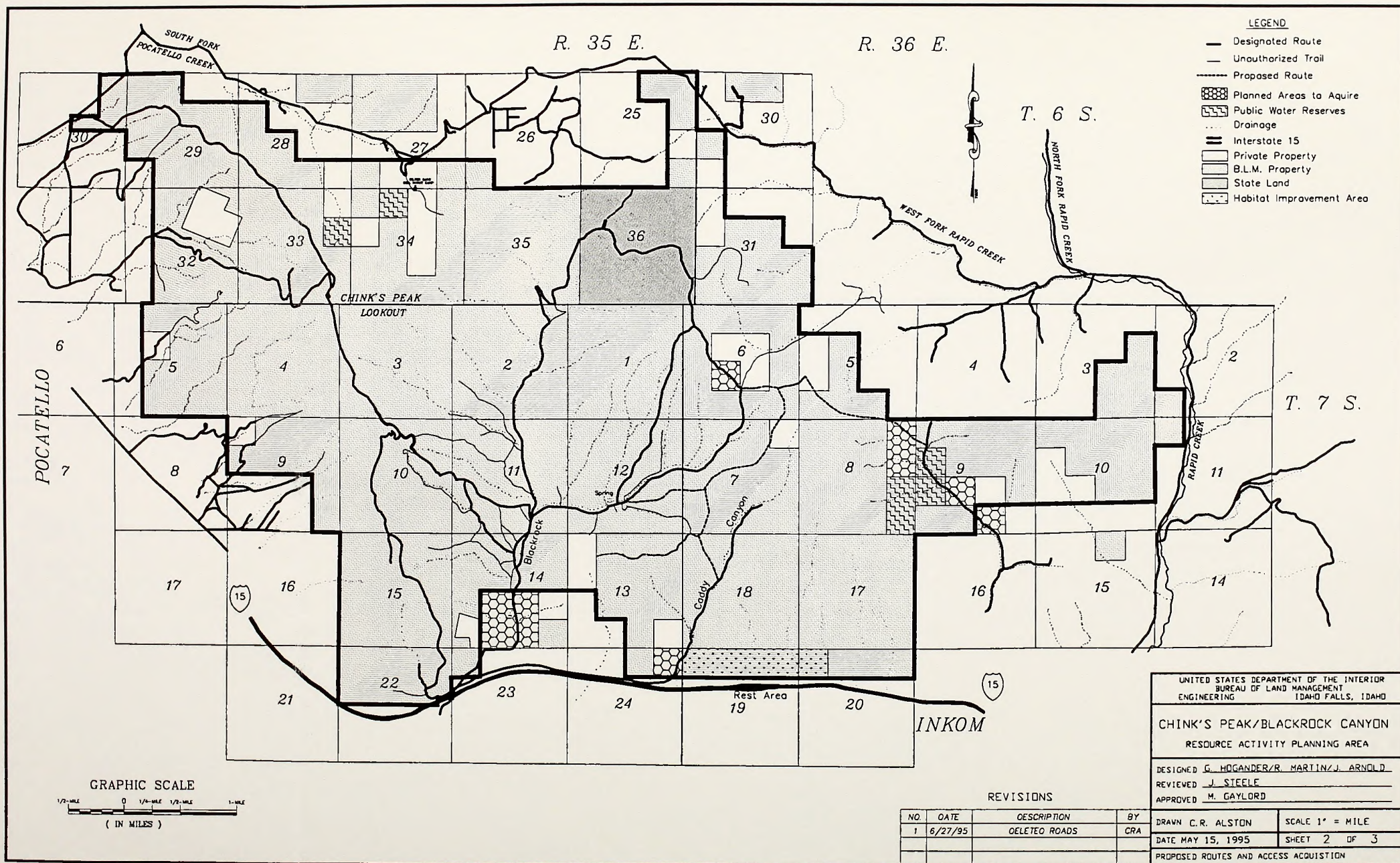
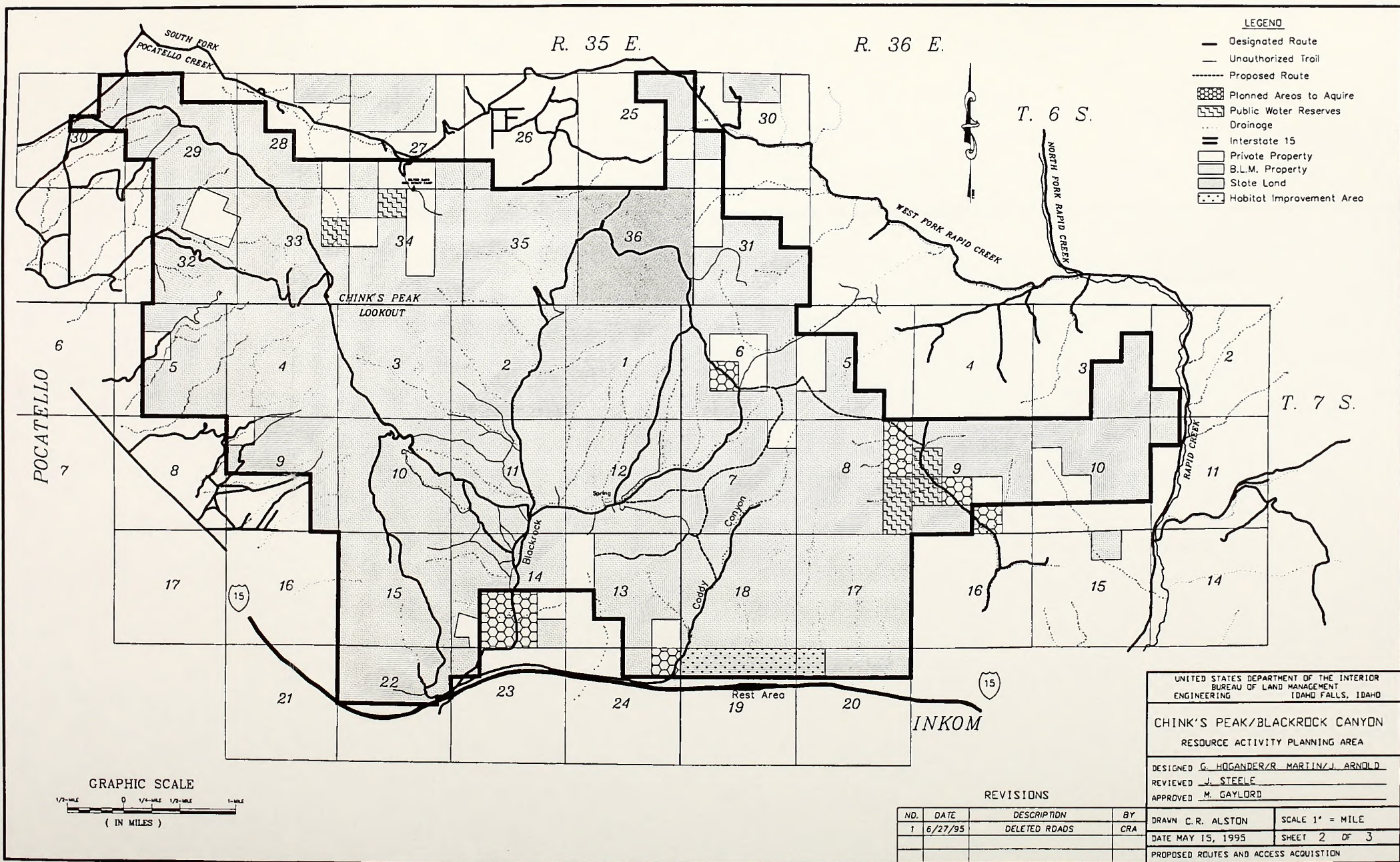


FIGURE 4: PROPOSED ROUTES AND ACCESS ACQUISITION



I. **PURPOSE AND NEED FOR PROPOSED ACTION:**

For the purposes of this plan, the Chinks Peak/Blackrock Canyon planning area is considered to include all the lands bounded by I-15 from Inkom to the Pocatello Creek Exit (#71), east to Parks Road, south to Buckskin Road, east to Hoot Owl Road, east to Rapid Creek Road and south to Inkom. The planning area contains approximately 13,806 acres of public land which includes Chink's Peak, Blackrock Canyon, and Caddy Canyon. Blackrock Canyon/Caddy Canyon is approximately 5 road miles southeast of Pocatello. The planning area is part of the designated Pocatello Special Recreation Management Area (SRMA). The county, including the City of Pocatello, currently has a population of 66,026. Figures 1 and 2 are a general location map and planning area map respectively.

The Pocatello Resource Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement (RMP/EIS) calls for one resource activity plan to address the activities within the SRMA. In 1992, an Off-Road Vehicle Management Plan was prepared for the West Bench of Pocatello. This is the second phase in the preparation of a single plan to address all of the resource activities within the SRMA.

The highest point in the planning area is Chink's Peak at 6,791 feet on the west edge of the canyon. There is a BLM-operated fire lookout and several communication sites at the top.

The planning area is used intensively by many different user groups. The current level of use is causing resource degradation, primarily road and trail erosion, littering, and health and safety issues. Implementation of a balanced management strategy now would help reduce impacts on the land and ensure sustainable long-term use of the area.

Trash dumping is one of the most noticeable problems in the planning area. "No Dumping" signs have been posted around the planning area, but it has not stopped violators from disposing of trash. Another part of this problem results from target shooting. Some sites are used consistently, and most are strewn with bottles, boxes, cans and other items left by the shooters. Organized clean-ups have been conducted in Blackrock Canyon, and would be required until effective enforcement is implemented. When several shooters are using the canyon, the random direction of fire can pose a safety risk to other users.

Some drivers of off-road vehicles (ORVs encompass four-wheel drives, all-terrain-vehicles, and motorcycles) do not stay on designated roads and trails. This is a result of individuals hill climbing, cutting switch backs, "mud bogging", and trying to navigate around wet areas in the existing road.

FIGURE 1. Location Map

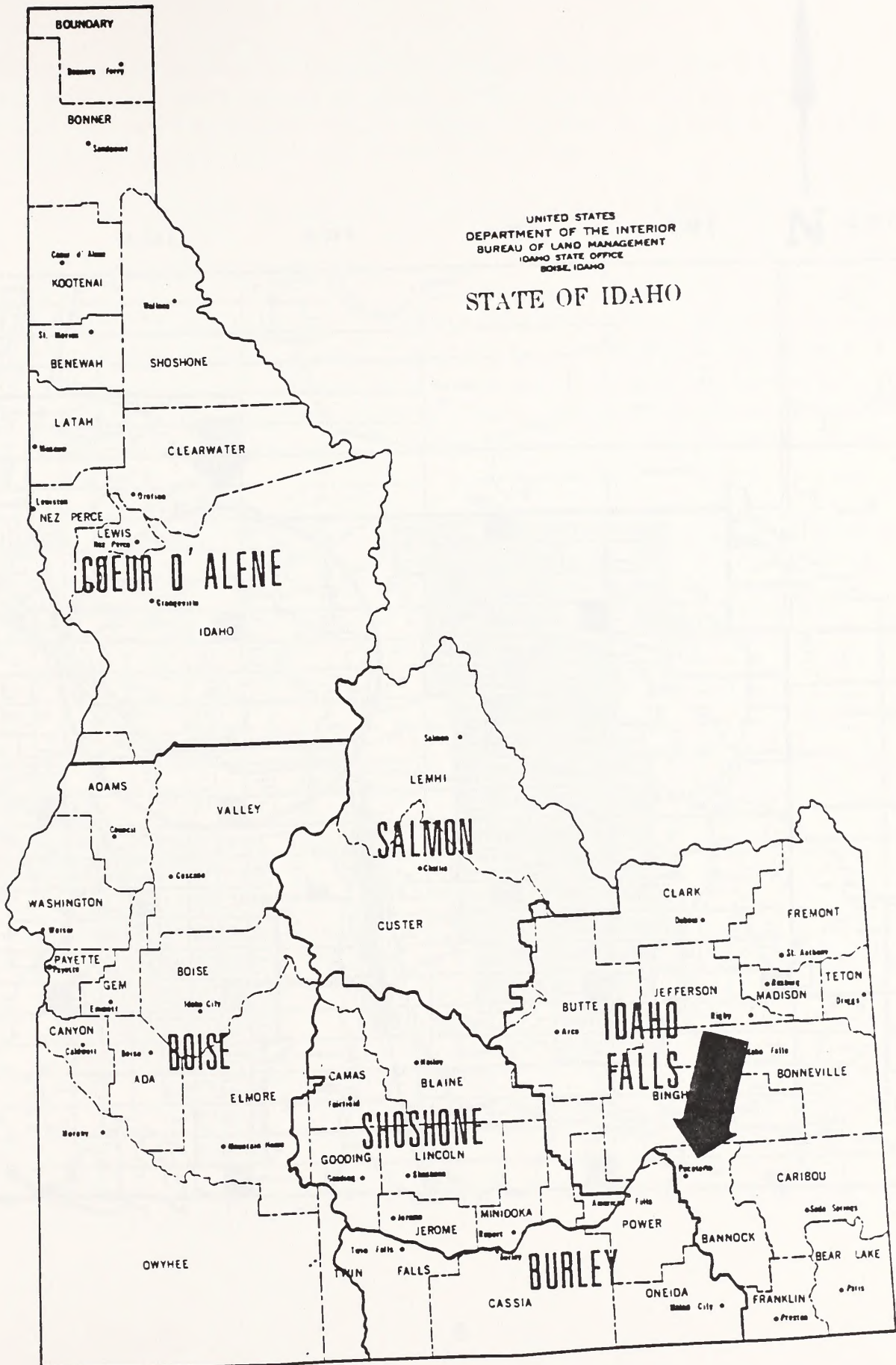
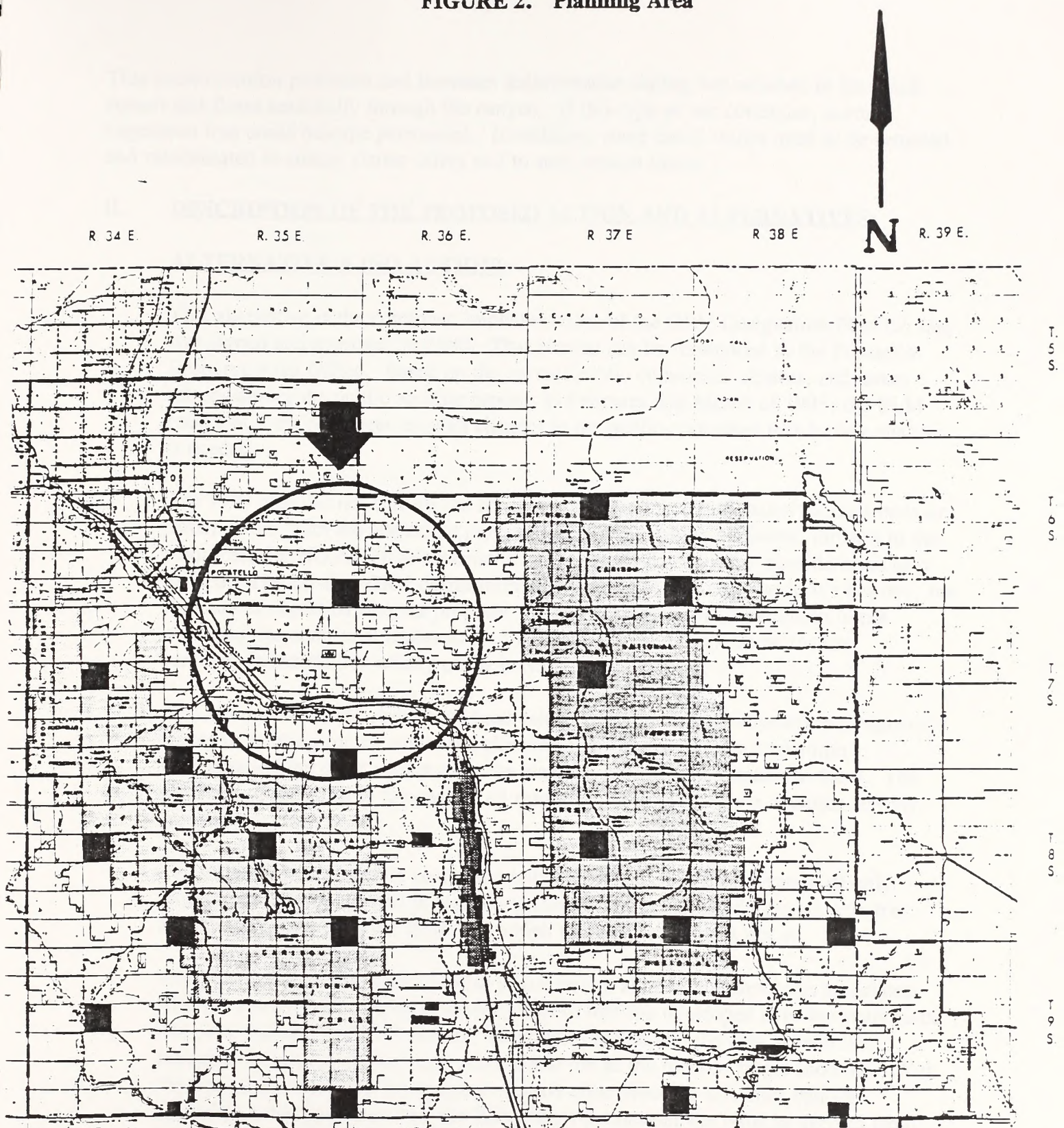


FIGURE 2. Planning Area



This causes erosion problems and increases sedimentation during wet weather in the small stream that flows seasonally through the canyon. If this type of use continues, current vegetation loss could become permanent. In addition, some travel routes need to be rerouted and rehabilitated to ensure visitor safety and to stop erosion losses.

II. DESCRIPTION OF THE PROPOSED ACTION AND ALTERNATIVES:

ALTERNATIVE A (NO ACTION):

This alternative is the continued implementation of the ORV Designation Plan/EA that was signed and approved in 1980. That plan/ea can be referenced in the Pocatello Resource Area Office. Based on the current public comments, desires, and issues raised, during the public scoping process in February and March of 1995, the BLM feels that there have been enough changes in the public's priorities that further analysis is needed.

The 1980 plan did not call for the construction of any new designated routes (roads or trails). Thus, with the additional input of the public, and the additional impacts to the resources, the NO ACTION alternative was dropped from further consideration as it existed. The existing ORV designation plan would not be discarded in its entirety, but it would be modified into the proposed action (alternative B). In addition to not providing for additional routes as the public desired, it did not allow for the rerouting/rehabilitation of any of the existing roads or trails.

This alternative would restrict off-road vehicles (not including bicycles) to designated routes or existing routes within the planning area. It also does not take into consideration the other resources in the planning area nor the impacts to them. The direction of the BLM is to consider all resources when preparing a resource activity plan such as this.

The no action alternative is geared towards the impacts and consideration of only recreational activities when in fact, the planning area needs to address all resource activities as directed in the RMP/EIS which this alternative does not do.

The 1980 Off-Road Designation plan also does not address any problems associated with the current indiscriminate shooting hazard that has developed over the years since that plan was approved. Currently, Blackrock Canyon and the area around the Buckskin Road area receive high recreational use in the form of target shooting. With the high amount of other recreational use and other resource activities that are occurring in the planning area, the BLM needs to consider the issue as derived from public input and BLM observations.

Other resource values and activities that the ORV Designation plan did not take into consideration are:

- * Timber
- * Grazing
- * Wildlife
- * Geology
- * Hydrology
- * Access/Realty

ALTERNATIVE B (proposed action):

The proposed action is fully described in the accompanying plan and will not be repeated here in it's entirety, but, the planned actions are summarized as follows:

1. Application for Grant Monies:

Once this EA and accompanying plan is approved by the Pocatello Resource Area Manager, an application for grant funds for the following fiscal year would be made to the Idaho Department of Parks and Recreation for implementation of the recreation related portions of this plan.

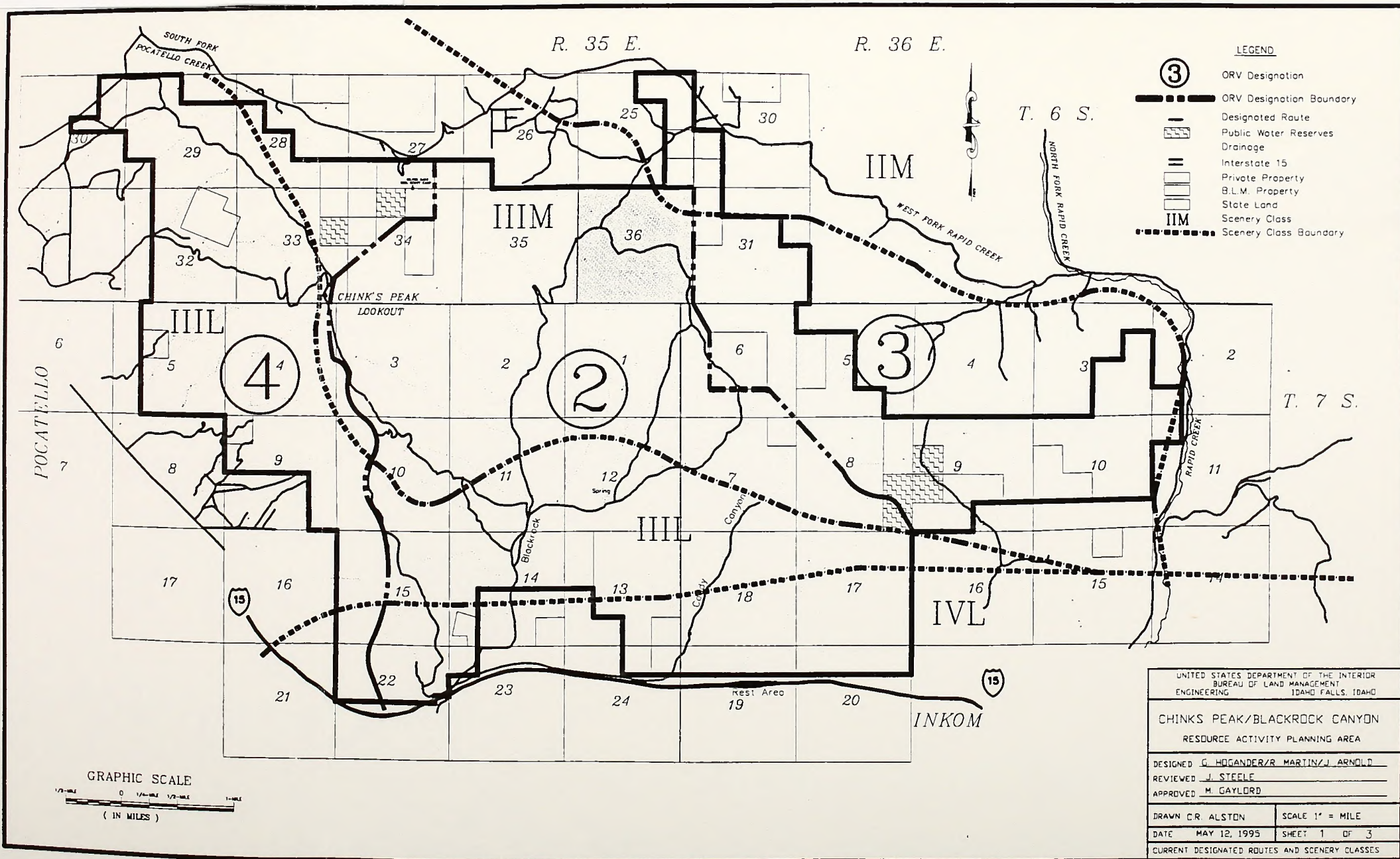
Application for funds would be for those recreation activities and facilities related to Off-road vehicles, improvement of roads and trails for both motorized and non-motorized activities, and recreational vehicle access. All facilities implemented under this plan would be developed with the handicapped in mind and as prescribed by law.

2. Roads and Trails:

The roads and trails shown in Figure 3 include portions that are on grades too steep for ORV or mechanical vehicle¹ activity as well as trails that have been worn by continual use by users who leave the designated routes. The trails identified and appropriately marked would be closed, ripped or harrowed, and replanted with native plant seed. The other trails, so marked, would be rerouted to try and bring the slope of the road or trail to no more than 10%. This would help reduce erosion to a level consistent with the Pocatello RMP/EIS.

¹ Any device used for transporting personnel or material with wheels, tracks, or skids for traveling over land, water, or snow, and is propelled by a living or non-living power source contained or carried on or within the device. Includes bicycles.

FIGURE 3: CURRENT ORV DESIGNATIONS



In addition to the existing designated roads and trails, the BLM would be adding/rehabilitating the roads/trails identified below.

- a) a connector trail between Blackrock Canyon and Caddy Canyon for vehicles 48 inches in width or smaller;
- b) change the designation on the current road that parallels the Right Hand Fork of Blackrock Canyon from Katsilometes Spring to the top of the canyon from all motor vehicles to vehicles less than 48 inches in width, and move the existing road from the south side of the creek to the north side, (this would meet the objectives of the RMP/EIS on soil protection);
- c) change/reroute the road/trail that goes up the ridge north from Katsilometes Spring. Designate this route as open to any vehicle, thus allowing a loop road to remain in effect to the top of the canyon (goes through sec. 1 and 12, T. 7 S., R. 35 E.);
- d) close the existing route as designated in the NW 1/4 sec. 29, T. 6 S., R. 35 E. that comes off the hill adjacent to private property and onto Buckskin Road. Designate a vehicle route starting in the NW 1/4 sec. 29, T. 6 S., R. 35 E. and continues into the middle of section 30 and back onto Buckskin Road;
- e) designate a non-motorized vehicle trail connecting Sorrel Canyon to the top of Caddy Canyon and on into Blackrock Canyon (when legal access can be obtained from the adjacent land owner);
- f) closing/rehabilitating any other undesignated roads and trails in the planning area as per prescription of this ea and the existing RMP/EIS and Pocatello ORV Designation plan;
- g) designate a non-motorized vehicle trail from the top of Blackrock Canyon out through and connecting with Buckskin Road, but only if legal access can be obtained from the private land owner (This may eventually be a designated trail for all users).
- h) designate the ridge road starting in T. 7 S., R. 36 E., sec. 6 and following the ridge line between the Right Hand Fork of Blackrock to a point in T. 7 S., R. 36 E., sec. 13 as open to vehicles less than 48" in width (ends at the BLM/private land section line in section 13)

The above roads/trails which are shown as being added to this plan may not be all of the opportunities available within the planning area. Any other future roads/trails for this area would be considered only after existing problems are resolved and currently proposed projects are implemented. At that time, a user advisory group would look at the current level of use and the road/trail density within the planning area to determine if any future projects are warranted.

Through the implementation of this EA and the accompanying plan, the entire planning area travel designations would be changed to "**Travel on Designated Routes Only**" with a seasonal restriction date of **November 15 to April 15**. This designation would not only apply to motorized vehicles, but would apply to all types of vehicles, inclusive of bicycles. This would be done through the publication of a Federal Register Notice which would be prepared within 60 days of approval of this environmental assessment and activity plan.

3. Signs:

Signs are listed in Appendix A. Signs would conform to standards prescribed in BLM manual 9130, standard Federal regulation recreation symbols and would be used. In some instances, orange Carsonite signs would be implemented for ease of installation, cost reduction, and visibility, but they too would utilize standard symbols and language.

4. Other Recreational Facilities:

a. Trail head

A parking lot approximately three quarters of an acres in size would be developed at the trail head area in Blackrock Canyon. This would occur at the current area identified as the "Mud Bog Play Area". This would accommodate a loading/unloading ramp and parking for about 30 vehicles, with the possibility of future expansions. Parking spaces would be designed as pull-through to accommodate ORV trailers, horse trailers, and larger recreational vehicles.

In addition to the above facilities, a Kiosk would also be installed in Blackrock Canyon. This would be used to provide visitor use information (maps and brochures of the area), collection of visitor use data such as the type of activity occurring, length of stay, and number of members in each party.

b. Toilet

A vault toilet structure would be located at the main trail head in Blackrock Canyon. This unit would be handicap accessible. The toilet would be located a minimum of 50 or more feet from any water. Generally accepted handicapped accessible design standards would be followed (refer to Appendix B). The toilet would be vaulted to contain wastes. The vault would be adequately vented in accordance with current technology to avoid build-up of vault odors inside the toilet structure. This facility would comply with BLM and State of Idaho Health and Welfare Department regulations and standards.

c. Gates, Fences and Barricades

Steel gates and fences would be located at main access points.

These areas are:

- 1) Blackrock Canyon
- 2) Box Canyon
- 3) Caddy Canyon
- 4) Barton/Chinks Peak Road
- 5) Buckskin/Chinks Peak Road

This would restrict access and use in the area during critical periods when saturated soils are most subject to erosion (Appendix C). Fences and barricades would be used to exclude use from areas not designated as open to vehicle travel. In places where a trail is being rehabilitated, a permanent barrier consisting of lava rock would be placed across the trail. In some areas posts would be substituted, but once the area has recovered, the posts would be removed. Fences would either be of a three strand barbed wire or post rail fence type construction. Both types of fences would comply with BLM construction standards.

Installation of the steel gates would cause disturbance to the roadbed. The surface would be restored to level upon completion of the installation. The placement of the locking post would cause the disturbance of soil in about a four square foot area and is considered insignificant.

The gates are green which would cause a visual contrast, but they are supposed to provide a visual block and draw the viewers attention to the

message on the gate. It would have safety reflectors so that it would show up at night as well.

5. Access Acquisition:

The accesses and land acquisitions shown on Figure 4 and identified below would be pursued on a willing seller basis as opportunities are made available.

* 640 acres of State Land, 540 acres of private land and 3 miles of easements as proposed for acquisition in this ea. Specifically they would be:

* State Land in T 6 S, R 35 E., Section 36, 640 acres

* Either the private lands or an easement from Buckskin Road in T. 6 S., R 35 E., Section 30 to the above mentioned Section 36, 140 acres or 1 mile of road

* The private lands or an easement in T 7 S, R 36 E, Section 6, 40 acres or ¼ mile of road

* The private lands or an easement at the mouth of Blackrock Canyon and at Caddy Canyon, 200 acres or ¾ mile of road

* Acquire easements and designate a route to allow public access from the Inkom area, 160 acres or 1 mile of road

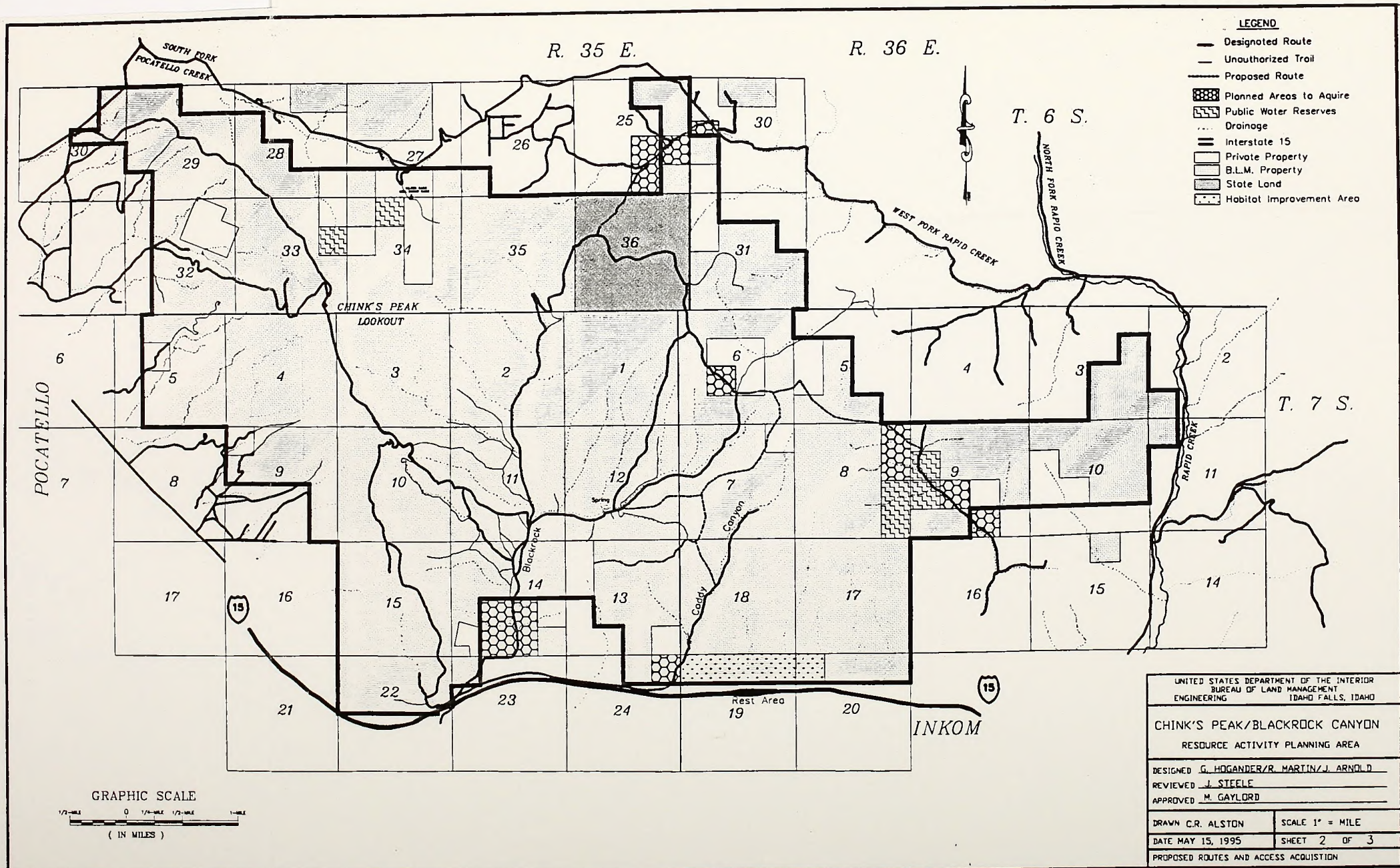
6. Timber Management:

The BLM would periodically assess the demand for forest products by the public and determine which demands would be reasonably met with a timber or wood products program based in the planning area. The plan and EA would contain a strategy for the long-term management of the roads associated with the harvest program. Because of the sensitivity of the timber program within the planning unit, a separate timber activity plan and EA would be prepared when the need is determined to be high enough to warrant further analysis.

7. Grazing:

No changes would be made in the number of grazing permits or livestock use at this time. On-going monitoring would continue, and if a

FIGURE 4: PROPOSED ROUTES AND ACCESS ACQUISITION



downward trend in range condition occurs, adjustments to the permit would be made in accordance with procedures and regulations.

An isolated forty acre parcel in section 15, T. 7 S., R. 36 E., (Allotment 0061) contains a spring which is used by cattle for water and a culinary water. The BLM would not lease this parcel of land for grazing and would fence at a minimum the spring so livestock would not have access to the area.

8. Cultural:

A sign explaining the history of the area would be installed at the old cabin site. (Appendix D)

9. Soils:

The ripper tooth would gouge a trench at least one foot deep, but this is necessary to eliminate the soil compaction which would retard the growth of the seeded species. The bulldozer would then use its blade to make water bars across the road to impede both traffic and water flow. The result of this disturbance would be to restore the rutted roads/trails to a near normal land contour and provide a proper seed bed for the specified seed mix. What ever seed mix is to be used would be composed primarily of native species to reduce visual contrast with the adjacent area.

10. Vegetation:

Weeds in the canyon would be treated in cooperation with the Bannock County Weed Supervisor and within guidelines established in the BLM's Weed EIS.

11. Wildlife:

Suitable areas for bitterbrush plantings would be identified and an effort would be made to increase the amount of bitterbrush growing in the planning area. Whenever a wildfire occurs in a suitable area for rehabilitation, Hobble Creek Sagebrush would be seeded to increase the forage base for wintering deer.

The BLM would work with the Idaho Department of Fish and Game to assess the need for and possible locations for water catchments to benefit

upland game and non-game wildlife. The catchments would be built with volunteer labor.

12. Public Safety (Indiscriminate Shooting/Litter Management):

Development of **Safety Zones** around trail heads, particularly in Blackrock Canyon, to exclude shooting within 150 yards of improvements, facilities, and the main Blackrock Canyon road up to and including Katsilometes Spring would be implemented.

ALTERNATIVE C:

This alternative would be the same as the proposed action with the following exceptions:

- * the existing motor vehicle restriction dates of March 15 to May 15 would be left in place. This restriction date would not include all vehicles, but only motorized vehicles as designated in the Federal Register Notice. As with alternative A, the current designated routes, (refer to Figure 3) and restriction dates (March 15-May 15) are difficult to enforce without a large scale effort to define the geographic boundaries on the ground.
- * no new roads or trails would be installed within the planning area. Only those existing roads and trails would be maintained with no option of further expansion of recreation opportunity in the future.
- * this alternative would not include bicycles in the designation of roads and trails, but would be limited to motor vehicles. This would leave the entire planning area open to any form of non-motorized use. Failure to address their use's and impacts is unacceptable.
- * The isolated forty acre parcel of land identified in section 15, T. 7 S., R. 36 E., would be open for a section 15 grazing lease and the fencing of the spring would not occur.
- * Restrictions on shooting within Blackrock Canyon proper would not be changed or enforced except directly around any improvements or structural facilities as BLM's regulations allowed.
- * The proposed acquisition routes/areas would not be considered in this alternative, thus reducing the possibilities for expansion of any recreation opportunities and reducing the opportunities for conflict resolution.

Based on the public issues and concerns which were derived during the public scoping process, this alternative does not meet the direction that the public desires the BLM to go in managing the public lands within the planning area.

This alternative also does not comply with many of the goals and objectives in the Pocatello RMP/EIS, and does not manage the resources on a sustained yield basis, this alternative has been dropped from further analysis.

ALTERNATIVE D (Maximization of Recreation Opportunities):

Under this alternative, the planning area would:

- * create the maximum amount of roads and trails in the area that can be feasibly developed for both motorized and non-motorized vehicles;
- * create additional recreation facilities as identified in the proposed action at all of the other main access locations within the planning area;
- * maintenance of the "mud Bog" play area within the planning area as currently exists in Blackrock Canyon. This option was suggested by one commentator;
- * increase the number of locations identified for acquisition access to the planning area. This would also include the use of condemnation.

This alternative does not meet the intent of a resource activity plan, and it ultimately does not meet the intent, goals, and objectives of the Pocatello RMP/EIS. The impacts from maximizing the recreation program within the planning area have been determined to be very detrimental to other resources that the BLM has responsibility to protect and sustain for use by the general public.

Some of the other uses that must be planned for are: soils, watershed, vegetation, wildlife, grazing, and cultural resources. By considering or implementing this alternative, the BLM would be violating a variety of laws, thus this alternative has been dropped from further analysis.

The above alternatives, A through D have been driven through the public scoping and comment period which raised specific management issues and concerns within the planning area. Based on those issues and concerns identified in appendix D, all but alternative B, the proposed action have been dropped from further consideration in this environmental assessment. The reason for this is that in order to properly meet all of the legal requirements that

the BLM is guided by and to meet the needs of the resources as well as trying to establish a median approach to the public's issues, this alternative appears to be the only feasible alternative that can create most all of the conflict resolution as identified by all individuals both within and outside the Bureau of Land Management.

III. AFFECTED ENVIRONMENT:

a) Realty:

Access to the public land within the planning area is limited in several different locations. There may be by physical access, but there is no legal access into some of these areas. The legal access points that currently exist are:

- 1) Road easement through private land at the south end of Blackrock canyon. Bannock County has declared this road as a recognized public access.
- 2) Road easement by the State of Idaho Highway Department off the Blackrock Canyon Road along the Interstate into Caddy Canyon (put in place during the construction of the Interstate so livestock could access Caddy Canyon. The traditional access was removed with the construction of Interstate I-15.)
- 3) Off the Blackrock Road into Box Canyon.
- 4) The end of Barton Road to Chinks Peak Fire Lookout/Communications sites.
- 5) Off Buckskin Road in T. 6 S., R. 35 E., NW 1/4 Sec. 30.

(See Figure 4 for the legal access points into the planning area.)

In 1978, the BLM acquired some of the private lands in Blackrock Canyon in a land exchange with the Simplot Company. There are other opportunities to provide additional access into the planning unit which the BLM could explore as the opportunity arises.

B) Timber Management:

There are overmature stands of Douglas-fir totaling approximately 395 acres on Chink's Peak at the north end of Blackrock Canyon. About 60% of the trees have been killed by the Douglas-fir bark beetles since 1989.

There is a high demand for forest products in the Pocatello area including; Christmas trees, firewood, house logs, and sawtimber. At this time, there are no designated areas

within the Pocatello Resource Area for harvesting these commodities due to the lack of legal access. Any roads needed in the future for timber harvest/removal access could be closed or included in the ORV trail system. This would require a separate timber sale plan and EA since the need for and the scope of a timber sale cannot be determined at this time.

C) Grazing:

The Blackrock/Chinks Allotment has a long history of sheep grazing. With the overall steepness in Blackrock Canyon proper and limited water distribution, herded sheep are able to most efficiently utilize the available forage. The current authorized grazing for the Blackrock/Chinks Allotment is as follows:

726 AUMS 1,000 - 2,000 head of sheep with a general grazing season of about April 15 to June 15

The authorized permit holder is WH Land & Livestock (McNabbs)

The east end of the planning area, i.e., the area east of Caddy Canyon, is a spring/early summer grazing allotment for cattle. The gentler hills and better water distribution allow reasonably good use by cattle. Monitoring shows the overall area is in good condition and because of this, there is no need to change the current grazing plan.

The Rapid Creek Allotment, (Caddy Canyon east), is permitted as follows:

454 AUMs of active preference with an average of 275 head of cattle
Season of use is generally from April 16 to July 1

Authorized permit holders on this allotment are:

Demar Gilbert
Pete Miller
Seren Chandler
David & Leila Cornwall

D) Cultural:

The prehistoric inhabitants of southern Idaho traveled into what is now Utah and Wyoming periodically, as well as north up into the Snake River plain. What cultural chronology the BLM has for this area comes from excavations around the Blackfoot Reservoir and from the Malad area dating to 7000 and 8000 years before present respectively. Prehistoric artifacts recovered from Blackrock Canyon, as well as the

Marsh Creek Valley, suggest use for these area may extend as far back as 4000 years before present.

With the western expansion of Euro-Americans through southern Idaho came conflicts between the native Shoshone-Bannocks and settlers. In April 1869, the Fort Hall reservation was established for the confinement of the Shoshone-Bannock. The original reservation contained approximately 1,800,000 acres, including Blackrock Canyon and the surrounding planning unit, but was reduced to 524,000 acres by the 1950's.

The discovery of gold during the 1860's increased the demand for a railroad to Montana. From Brigham City, Utah, the Utah and Northern Railroad Company built track to Franklin, Oxford, Red Rock and Arimo. From Arimo, it continued up Marsh Valley to present day Blackrock. Even though land in Marsh Valley was ceded by the Shoshone-Bannock in 1880, Blackrock continued to be located on a small railroad right-of-way in the reservation until 1880. Eventually Blackrock expanded from a simple stage station to a viable community, it's population decreasing in later years.

Historic use of Blackrock Canyon included sheep herding. Two historic sites have been recorded on the lands patented to B. Thomas Morris (10BK195) in 1917 and Eugene and Erastus Barnard (10BK194) in 1921. In addition, a prehistoric lithic scatter (10BK193) has been recorded in Blackrock Canyon. This site must be evaluated for eligibility to the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) before the project is allowed to proceed. Should the site be determined eligible, the project plan must be modified to protect the resource.

E) Recreation:

The planning area can have a season of use up to about 220 days for motorized and non-motorized type vehicles. This averages from about mid-April through mid-November. This is dependant on the type of winter and spring the area receives. It can be as short as 180 days due to the inclement weather. Overall, the planning area is visited year round and has such activities as; ORV use, target shooting, deer hunting, hiking, horseback riding, sight-seeing, mountain biking, snowmobiling, and hang-gliding. Occasional camping is also observed.

The area is easily accessible by vehicle. (See above realty section) Generally groups of 1-5 persons utilize the area, staying 1-2 days. Traditionally, the majority of use occurs during the summer recreation season, Memorial Day through Labor Day. There is an additional high use period during the fall hunting season.

The Recreation Opportunity Spectrum for the planning area is roaded natural which is defined in the glossary. Generally, a roaded natural setting is primarily natural-looking

with some visible evidence of human use. It provides for all recreation uses that do not require expensive facilities such as stadiums.

The Visual Resource Management Class is Class III. The objective for class III is to partially retain the existing character of the landscape. Activities may attract attention but should not dominate the view of the casual observer. Changes should repeat the basic elements found in the predominant natural features of the characteristic landscape.

Scenery class for the area as defined in the Pocatello RMP/EIS is low along the foothills visible from the freeway and medium in Blackrock Canyon and along Buckskin and Hoot Owl Roads.

In 1980 the Pocatello Off-Road Vehicle Plan designated the Chinks Peak/Blackrock Canyon planning area as either: 1) limited to motorized vehicles on existing roads and trails, 2) on designated routes, or 3) closed to over-snow vehicles. Figure 3 shows the roads and trails that are open, and those additional routes that have been created by recreation users in the area since the original plan was approved. This plan (Pocatello Off-Road Vehicle Designation Plan), was confirmed again in 1988 upon approval of the Pocatello RMP. This plan addressed the use of motor vehicles, but it did not take into consideration the amount of bike use (non-motorized vehicle or wheeled vehicle) that was occurring or would occur in the planning area.

While Blackrock Canyon is closed to over-snow vehicles, the hills north and east of Caddy Canyon (northeast subunit) and the Chink's Peak area are open. All areas within the planning unit are currently closed to all motorized vehicles from March 15 to May 15 of each year. This is due to the adverse conditions likely to be encountered during the spring runoff period.

Because of the types of use being managed for in the canyon, selected roads and trails need to be rerouted to protect the soil resources and/or visitor safety. Some trails need to be closed and rehabilitated. Directional and interpretive signs are necessary. Trash receptacles are desirable, and toilets would become necessary with increased use of a proposed trail head.

F) Geology:

The Blackrock Canyon area is located in the Pocatello Range, a northern extension, geologically, of the Bannock Range to the south. The two ranges are formed from a core of Precambrian to early Paleozoic rocks. Thrust faults and low-angle normal faults divide the area into north-south trending features with 'windows' of the oldest rocks exposed near the core of the ranges.

The geology is complex with widely varying structural interpretations used to explain the geology of the core areas. Geologists who have studied the area include Ludlum (1942), Trimble (1976), Link (1980-present), LeFebre (1984), and Kellogg and Skipp (1988). The area is unique, not well understood locally, and offers students and professionals an ongoing opportunity for study.

The higher elevations are formed from resistant quartzite, diamictite, or conglomerate. Less resistant metamorphics, argillites, slates, amphibolites, and shales form the lower elevation valleys and swales. Tertiary volcanics and sediments of the Starlight Formation are present near the Portneuf Valley and to the west. These rocks fill ancient valleys and down-faulted areas. They are also part of the puzzle since low-angle faulting has placed them in tilted, structurally deformed positions.

Quaternary-age terrace deposits mapped as Q1 by Trimble (1976), line the Portneuf Valley to elevations as high as 5800 feet. These deposits are highly susceptible to erosion.

The Portneuf Gap/Chinks Peak area was the scene of intense mineral exploration following the land rush in 1902. Several small mines developed for copper, silver, and nickel. They were located in the Gap, near Chinks Peak, and on Indian Mountain south of the Gap. Small mine tunnels and shafts are located throughout the area. The mines only operated fully from about 1904-1916 when most production ceased.

Limestone was fairly intensely explored in Blackrock Canyon in the 1920's; however, no deposits from the Blackrock Canyon Limestone have been developed, and its present value is very low.

The Blackrock Canyon/Portneuf Gap/Chinks Peak area is a rare example of a complex structural geology. It represents a unique type of "window" into deep-seated geologic features. It contains a full suite of minerals produced by regional metamorphism. It also displays a thick sequence of Precambrian rocks which lead to the Cambrian boundary line. There is also a possible Precambrian angular unconformity, basal Precambrian limestone and breccia deposits, Precambrian granitic dikes and sills, and unusual mineralization associated with both the metamorphics and with post Precambrian age copper mineralization. The unique geology needs to be protected with a natural area classification.

G) Soils and Vegetation:

Appendix E shows a map and list of the soils found in the canyon. Soil capabilities dictate some of the parameters of trail design, revegetation potential after a fire and the amount of forage the land can produce for wildlife and livestock. All the soils in the canyon have a high erosion potential. This means that trails and roads require

additional attention to grade, design, and location to avoid problems with siltation and maintenance.

Weeds are a problem in Blackrock Canyon. Dyer's woad is the principal concern because of its aggressive nature and ability to displace native species. Purple-stamen mullein present in the canyon is not recognized as a noxious weed by the State of Idaho at this time, but it also displaces native vegetation. The majority of the infestations of these two plants is along the south slopes of the canyon above Interstate 15. Control of weeds by herbicides must be done with caution since herbicides will kill deer winter browse as well as the target species. Helicopter spraying should not be done in this area because aerially applied spray is highly susceptible to drift and non-target vegetation can be killed.

H) Wildlife:

The planning area does not hold any unique wildlife, but it is a major deer winter range. This is the reason for the snowmobile closure from Chinks Peak to the West Fork of Rapid Creek drainage. This closure eliminates one of the significant recreation conflicts with wildlife. The other recreation conflict is the early spring use of motor vehicles and recreational shooting in Blackrock Canyon proper. Spring grazing use by livestock does not pose a conflict with wintering deer. This is because the vegetation has time to complete leaf growth, seed set, and store carbohydrates after grazing ends. Wintering deer have the same cured vegetation that they would under ungrazed conditions, albeit in lesser quantities.

Appendix F lists common vegetation and wildlife species that can be found in the planning area.

I) Hydrology:

The planning unit contains several live and intermittent streams and springs. The most prominent are Blackrock Canyon, Caddy Canyon, West Fork of Rapid Creek, South Fork of Pocatello Creek, and a spring with no name in T. 7 S., R. 36 E., Sec. 15. Generally, these springs/creeks would run year round, but on dry years some of the smaller tributaries and springs may go dry.

An example of this is the small stream that runs through Blackrock Canyon. Generally on a good year, water will flow nearly to the mouth of the canyon. Then, as the spring starts to dry and precipitation diminishes, the amount of water in the creek will recede higher up the drainage.

In the spring of the year, this creek in particular will run heavy with silt and mud from the adjacent roads and trails in the canyon. This is generally due to the unauthorized

hill climbs and "mud boggs" adjacent to the creek. In times of heavy snow melt and spring run off, the large amount of water running down these roads and trails is such that any obstructions in the roads tends to divert the water off the road. This in turn starts to produce a cut in the road shoulder causing undue degradation of the soil and thus cutting and movement of the soil results into the creek.

IV. ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES:

A. IMPACTS:

1) Soils:

PROPOSED ACTION:

Disturbance to the soil during trail rehabilitation would be major. There would be about five (5) miles of existing road/trail that would need to be either constructed or some level of maintenance on. It is estimated that over 11, 700 cubic yards of soil would be moved in one form or another to complete the needed maintenance. This may mean blading the trail/road base to complete reconstruction in other locations.

A small area of soil (approximately 20'x20' in each location) where the toilet, loading, and unloading ramps would be installed would be disturbed.

During the reconstruction/rerouting of the identified roads and/or trails, disturbance and/or displacement of soil would occur. Some of the reconstruction would be in an area about 48 inches wide and up to several hundred feet long in order to place the trail/road on the proper grade. This soil displacement would result from the sides contoured of some areas by equipment.

For example, the rerouting of the road from Katsilometes Spring from the south side of the creek to the north side, the area to be disturbed would be about 48" wide by about 1.5 miles long. This would involve the movement of about 3,520 cubic feet of soil.

NO ACTION:

The no action alternative would allow the continued degradation of the soil resource. This action would not meet the goals and objectives of the Pocatello RMP/EIS for the amount of soil loss per acre.

2) Vegetation:

PROPOSED ACTION:

During the above activities, loss of vegetation from the disturbed sites would temporarily occur. It is anticipated that this would be a short term impact as mitigation measures would be implemented to reseed and reestablish vegetation on the disturbed sites after each treatment is accomplished.

NO ACTION:

With the no action alternative, the additional vegetation loss would not occur from the disturbance the project would create, but, the overall impacts to the vegetation and continued loss from recreational vehicles would continue. This impact is not acceptable, and is also inconsistent with the RMP/EIS.

3) Recreation and Visuals:

PROPOSED ACTION:

Signs showing direction to the trail system and trail signs would be visible at a distance, but they must be in order to serve their purpose.

Initially, the disturbance to the roads and trails being rehabilitated would show as the lack of vegetative cover on these areas would provide a direct contrast to the surrounding area.

Implementation of this plan would increase visitor use on designated trails. Since publicity on the project is planned, this would direct traffic to the area. The proposed improvement of the trails and roads, as well as the planned increase in enforcement and educational efforts, should reduce the impacts to the surrounding area of people leaving the designated routes. The trails themselves would be in better condition and result in less erosion.

The structures constructed at the trail head facility would also be in contrast with the surrounding landscape, but, by requiring that natural colors and natural materials be used wherever feasible, would help reduce the contrast.

NO ACTION:

Under this alternative, there would be fewer impacts on such resources as the wildlife from the temporary intrusion of equipment during the construction phase of the project. The long term impact of not controlling the activities

within the planning area, ie. off-road vehicles, would have a much longer impact on the wildlife population than would the short term impacts of the proposed action.

The signing program would continue to try and direct the public to the designated routes and trails, but the subunit boundaries identified in the 1980 plan would be much more difficult to identify on the ground, thus causing confusion to the public on what areas are open and closed to various types of vehicles.

4) Wildlife:

PROPOSED ACTION:

Fences may inhibit wintering deer movement. The fences would be short in length, and would be planned more to stop vehicles than to interfere with any wildlife movement, therefore they would be easily circumnavigated by animals. Currently access to the area for both vehicles and recreational target shooting during critical winter times occurs. This in turn allows for additional stress to be placed on the deer that use the area for winter habitat.

Disturbance to the resident wildlife populations may occur during the times that heavy equipment is working in the area, but this is short lived. Increased recreational use of the area may also provide for additional times of disturbance to the wildlife. This would be a direct result of improved roads and trails into the area allowing individuals to access the area that could not access the area before.

NO ACTION:

See the above recreation section as the impacts here are basically the same in this section.

5) Hydrology:

PROPOSED ACTION:

All impacts of the planned projects are designed to avoid any impacts to the stream such as sediment deposition. The only direct impact to the stream thus far, is the ford at the fork in the Blackrock Canyon road going east to Katsilometes spring. The existing gabion would be modified by the Force Account during the main road reconstruction which is covered under another EA concerning the road reconstruction.

Until the disturbed areas of soil become reestablished with vegetation, some increase in soil displacement may result. This would be more prevalent in locations where the slope or grade of the area is in excess of 10% or where ripping of the soil for seed bed preparation is done up and down the slope instead of across slope or no ripping at all.

Due to the existing contamination to the culinary water at the no name spring in section 15, T. 7 S., R. 36 E. from livestock grazing, the BLM would not lease this 40 acre parcel of land for livestock grazing.

NO ACTION:

One of the major impacts to the hydrology of the area (streams) is the ford where Blackrock Canyon splits. The no action alternative would leave this site as is, and with the existing gabion not functioning, the area directly below it would continue to cut and move soil further down stream. This cutting would eventually move up stream and affect the canyon directly above the ford, thus causing a larger loss of soil and ultimately vegetation from the adjacent topography.

The existing situation, no action, would also allow for the continued use of the no name spring in section 15, T. 7 S., R. 36 E. BM by livestock. This use would continue to degrade the water supply at this location and the possibility of contamination to the culinary water system here would be greatly increased.

The overall unregulated use of the area by vehicles, horses, and other recreation uses, would continue to degrade the water sources within the planning area. The protection and enhancement of the watershed is one of the main purposes of this activity plan, so by allowing many of the uses within the planning area to go unregulated, would only allow the continued degradation of the resources.

6) Cultural:

PROPOSED ACTION:

With the implementation of any surface disturbing activities, any cultural resource would have the possibility of being either damaged or destroyed. Without specific mitigation measures, this could be an irretrievable commitment of the resources which is contrary to BLM rules, regulations, and policy, and violates Federal Law.

The planning area has been surveyed for National Register eligible sites. Site #10BK193 was test excavated to determine it's eligibility and was found

ineligible to NRHP. There would be no effects on any NRHP listed or eligible sites within the planning area.

NO ACTION:

Under this alternative, there would not be as much surface disturbance within the planning area thus the need for as an intensive cultural survey would not exist. Do to the cultural resources being one of the mandatory items that must be addressed with any program, there would be no significant change between the two alternatives. The only major change between the two alternatives is that with this alternative, there is less of a chance to disturb and destroy a potential cultural site do to less disturbance with the proposal.

7) Public Safety and Health:

PROPOSED ACTION:

The impacts here would actually be in the form of improving the quality of the human environment. As the conditions currently are, dumping of household trash, leaving of material used for indiscriminate shooting, and the breaking of glass currently pose a higher health and safety risk than what would be proposed. Implementation of the resulting plan would help to reduce this problem by establishing a safety zone where shooting would not be allowed. This would reduce the publics chances of accidently being shot by someone using the area for target practice and the obvious intrusion of litter left by the irresponsible individuals that use the are for shooting.

During periods of construction for some of the planned facilities, rehabilitation of roads and trails and other such projects, the possibility of bodily injury or vehicle damage exists if the public is allowed access to construction sites.

NO ACTION:

Under this alternative, the continued collection of debris from shooting and the dumping of household trash would continue at a rate that can not be tolerated on the public lands. It is the BLM's job and management objective to provide as pleasurable recreational experience as possible for the visiting public and to provide that experience as safely as can be done. If the no action alternative were implemented, the BLM would not be meeting it's goals, objectives, and regulations.

B. MITIGATION MEASURES:

1) Soils:

Impacts to the soil would be mitigated by keeping the average slope of the trails to 10% or less to reduce erosion potential. Short sections of up to 20% may be allowed in places where the impacts would be insignificant or it is necessary for other environmental considerations (avoiding a long loop, for instance).

Water bars and changes in grade would be built into the trails and roads in a spacing interval as determined by the engineering staff to meet the limitations of the soil type.

Soil removed from the installation of the toilet would be used to back fill around the toilet to help provide a location for water to disperse away from this facility.

The positive effect of the construction of water bars on roads and trails to be either rehabilitated, constructed, or maintained would be a reduction in erosion since the water would be directed off of the trail more frequently and cause less damage as a result.

2) Vegetation:

Use of a seed mix composed primarily of native species would reduce the visual contrast of the rehabilitation efforts. The recommended mix would be:

- 45% Secar blue bunch wheat grass
- 25% Ephraim crested wheat grass
- 15% Delar small burnett
- 5% Lewis flax
- 5% antelope bitter brush
- 5% Hobbler Creek sagebrush or bitterbrush

The above recommendation is a suggested listing, but it may be changed depending on the project, site characteristics, availability of seed, and cost.

If vegetation lost in the lava rock storage area does not recover within one year, a seed mix of 99% Secar blue bunch wheat grass and 1% Hobbler Creek sagebrush would be broadcast seeded over the bare patches and raked into the topsoil.

* Weeds in the canyon would be treated in cooperation with the Bannock County Weed Supervisor and within guidelines established in the BLM's Weed EIS.

3) Recreation and Visuals:

* Materials for fences and other facility construction would be of natural color (brown or green posts). This would be in compliance with BLM Standard Operating Procedures;

* No clearing of fence lines would be done with machinery. Fences would either be of a three strand barbed wire or post rail fence type construction. Both types of fences would comply with BLM construction standards;

* Barricades would be of lava rock wherever possible, but treated posts or railroad ties may also be used;

* Signs and barricade panels would be of reflective type materials;

* Publication of a pamphlet/brochure of the area would be published to allow the public to understand which trails and roads are open and which are closed. This also allows the public to observe other restrictions in the area such as some trails would be open only to vehicles less than 48" in width, and others would be open only to non-motorized vehicles;

* Signing of designated routes would be done to identify the above regulations;

* Toilets would be made handicap accessible, as would any other facility which the handicap may use. The toilet would be located a minimum of 50 or more feet from any water. Generally accepted handicapped accessible design standards would be followed (refer to Appendix B). The toilet would be vaulted to contain wastes. The vault would be adequately vented in accordance with current technology to avoid build-up of vault odors inside the toilet structure;

* Application for any grant money would be coordinated with any and all interested groups within the surrounding area. This includes such entities as Bannock County Commissioners, Blue Ribbon Coalition, Silent Sports, CORE, etc.;

* Planning area travel designations would be changed to "**Travel on Designated Routes Only**" with a seasonal restriction date of **November 15 to April 15**. This designation would not only apply to motorized vehicles, but would apply to all types of vehicles, inclusive of bicycles. This would be done through the

publication of a Federal Register Notice which would be prepared within 60 days of approval of this environmental assessment and activity plan.

- * Signs would conform to standards prescribed in BLM manual 9130, standard Federal regulation recreation symbols and would be used. In some instances, orange Carsonite signs would be implemented for ease of installation, cost reduction, and visibility, but they too would try and utilize standard symbols and language.

4) Wildlife:

Suitable areas for bitterbrush plantings would be identified and an effort would be made to increase the amount of bitter brush growing in the planning area. Whenever a wildfire occurs in a suitable area for rehabilitation, Hobble Creek Sagebrush would be seeded to increase the forage base for wintering deer.

5) Hydrology:

- * All areas of soil disturbance shall be reseeded as described on page 31 or as recommended for a specific project based on the site characteristics for the project. This would ensure that any long term impacts to the creeks and streams within the planning area would not occur and that soil erosion is mitigated.

6) Cultural:

- * A sign explaining the history of the area would be installed at the old cabin site (Katsilometes Spring).

- * A cultural resources clearance would be accomplished prior to any ground disturbing activities within the planning area. If any evidence of cultural or historical significance is located either prior to or during the proposed project, the project would be immediately stopped until it can either be modified to protect the site(s), or the project would be canceled if the site can not be protected or modified.

7) Public Health and Safety/Litter Management:

- * Development of **Safety Zones** around trail heads, particularly in Blackrock Canyon, to exclude shooting within 150 yards of improvements, facilities, and the main Blackrock Canyon road from the BLM boundary up to and including Katsilometes Spring would be implemented. The BLM would also work with the Gate City Sporting Shooting association to post signs in the area to encourage use to the Oregon Trail Shooting Range on 2 ½ mile road.

* Litter management would be more pronounced with the addition of BLM standard signs indicating "NO DUMPING" and informing the public where disposal of garbage may be done properly.

V. CUMULATIVE IMPACTS:

a) Wildlife:

The one impact that may result from this project would be the possible total net increase in road/trail densities within the planning area. Prior to any new or additional routes are created, other than proposed in this plan, the Idaho Department of Fish and Game, and other interested parties would be placed on a user advisory board to evaluate these impacts. It has been shown through studies that to many roads/trails in an area may have an adverse impact on wildlife in a given area. Therefore, to help mitigate any cumulative impacts, this advisory committee would be formed and utilized for this planning area.

VI. CONSULTATION AND COORDINATION:

A. AGENCIES, GROUPS OR INDIVIDUALS CONSULTED:

JOHN E. BUTTERFIELD
KEN CAVANAUGH
WAYNE MADSEN
RICK FOWERS
JACK DUFFER
NORMAN ROGERS
SCOT GUNTER
DICK BURKS
PAULA MILLER
EJI YOKODA
DONALD W. GUNTER
HOWARD & VICKI WILLIS
JACK & STELLA A. COLLINS
ROBERT BARRY
MAX NEWLIN
BRENT ABBOTT
JACK L. WESLING
FRANK W. SZELMECZKA
BILL ANDREWS
GORDON PERRY
DAVID L. FIX
HARVEY D. PECK

ROGER BRAY
LARRY ORCHARD
JOHN W. ANDERSON
NEAL M. CHRISTENSEN
ROGER & MONIQUE SIMPSON
DAN BOYD
GARY MILLER
JOHN BRINGMAN
CHRISTY SMITH
JERRY D. PENROD
SHERMAN L. RAWLINGS
CHRIS KNOX
RALPH MAUGHAN
GARY SMITH
TERRI BERGMEIER
JIM KATSILOMETES
EARL MAPES, JR.
ERIC ROGERS
LANE DITTON
US WEST
MATTHEW LEWIS
VIRGIL GERMER

IDAHO POWER
MIKE MCNABB
MARGO PROKSA
STEVEN M. ANDERSON
SEREN R. CHANDLER
CONNIE HOCKING
ZUNDELS
JOHN MCNABB
FABIEN E. IVANOFF
JIM WILLIAMS
M.D. MORRISON
DEMAR GILBERT
PETE COLE
KAREN K. SEEVERS
RAY S. HUNTER
JACK ANDERSON
BILL DAVIDSON
GARY W. MILLER
RAY S. HUNTER
DAVID A. KRIENER
HARVEY D. PECK
N. ERIC ROGERS
J.L. WESLING
KEN DURSTINE
MARK MASON
STEVEN M. ANDERSON
DIANE L. ANDERSON
GORDON OR TERESSA ROBERTS

STATE OF IDAHO (BOC)
(STEVE TOLMAN)

SEAN BLACK MS-303
(NORTHWEST PIPELINE)

BRIAN HOWARD
(KPVI)

KEN CAVANAUGH
(Idaho Hang Gliders Assoc.)

CLARK COLLINS
(Blue Ribbon Coalition)

FRED E. STOLL
(PTMA)

GREG TOURTLOTTE
REGIONAL SUPERVISOR
IDAHO DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND
GAME

SHOSHONE-BANNOCK TRIBES
(SHAWN ROBERTSON)

DAWN HATCH
Representing Congressman Crapo
250 So. 4th
Federal Building
Pocatello, ID 83201
*236-6734

SALLY TANIGUCHI
Representing Sen. Kempthorne
250 So. 4th
Federal Building
Pocatello, ID 83201
*236-6775

VALERIE WATKINS
Representing Sen. Craig
250 So. 4th
Federal Building
Pocatello, ID 83201
*236-6817

B. BLM PERSONNEL:

- * Richard Martin - Natural Resource Specialist;
- * Geoff Hogander - Wildlife Biologist;
- * Jaime Arnold - Outdoor Recreation Planner;
- * Lisa Cresswell - Archaeologist;

APPENDIX A: Sign List

1) Entrance Signs

**Text: Entering Vehicle² Restriction Area
Travel Permitted on Designated Routes Only; To Protect Soil and
Other Natural Resource Values.**

**Seasonal closure from Nov. 15 to April 15
(on the bottom of the sign:)
"Violations punishable by 43 CFR 8364.1 D"**

Total needed: 5

Custom sign, laser cut, 36" X 36", includes 4X4 steel posts (5)

TOTAL ESTIMATED COST: \$5000.00

2) Seasonal closure:

**Text: SEASONAL CLOSURE
Area Behind Sign Closed to All Vehicles
November 15 to April 15 to Protect Soil and Other Natural Resource
Values.**

Brown sign with white lettering, and pictures of vehicles above the text.

Total needed: 10

Cost of signs: \$130.00

Posts: \$ 7.00 each

TOTAL ESTIMATED SIGN COST: \$ 200.00

²Vehicle is all inclusive of motorized and non-motorized. This includes bicycles. See definition in Glossary of terms. ²

3) Closed Areas

Text: **CLOSED ROUTE
THE ROAD/TRAIL BEHIND THIS SIGN IS
CLOSED TO ALL VEHICLES TO PREVENT EROSION**

Brown sign with white lettering, and pictures of motorcycle, ATV and jeep (with line through them) above the text.

Total needed: 24

Cost of signs: 24 at \$15 = \$360.00

Posts: 24 X \$ 7.00 = \$168.00

TOTAL ESTIMATED SIGN COST: \$ 528.00

4) Limited Use Areas

Text: **LIMITED USE AREA:
VEHICLES LESS THAN 48" IN WIDTH ONLY
LIMITED TO DESIGNATED ROADS AND TRAILS**

**LIMITED USE AREA
CLOSED TO MOTORIZED VEHICLES - OPEN TO ALL
OTHER VEHICLES ON DESIGNATED ROUTES ONLY**

Brown sign with white lettering, and pictures of vehicles above text.

Total needed: 16

Cost of signs: 16 at \$ 15 = \$ 240.00

Posts: 16 X \$ 7.00 = \$ 112.00

TOTAL ESTIMATED SIGN COST: \$352.00

5) Sign for main road entering Chinks Peak/Blackrock Canyon

Text: **GATE AHEAD - AREA CLOSED TO ALL VEHICLES FROM Nov
15 TO APRIL 15**

* custom sign 16" X 20" includes wood post (2)

Total needed: 3

Cost of signs: 3 at \$70.00 = \$210.00

Posts: 3 X \$7.00 = \$ 21.00

TOTAL ESTIMATED SIGN COST: \$241.00

6) Designated Routes

Text: **DESIGNATED ROUTE**

Total needed: 24

Cost of signs: 24 at \$15.00 = \$360.00

Posts: 24 X \$ 7.00 = \$168.00

TOTAL ESTIMATED COST: \$ 528.00

7) Miscellaneous Signs

Text: **No Dumping
Safety Zone - No Shooting**

Total needed: 30

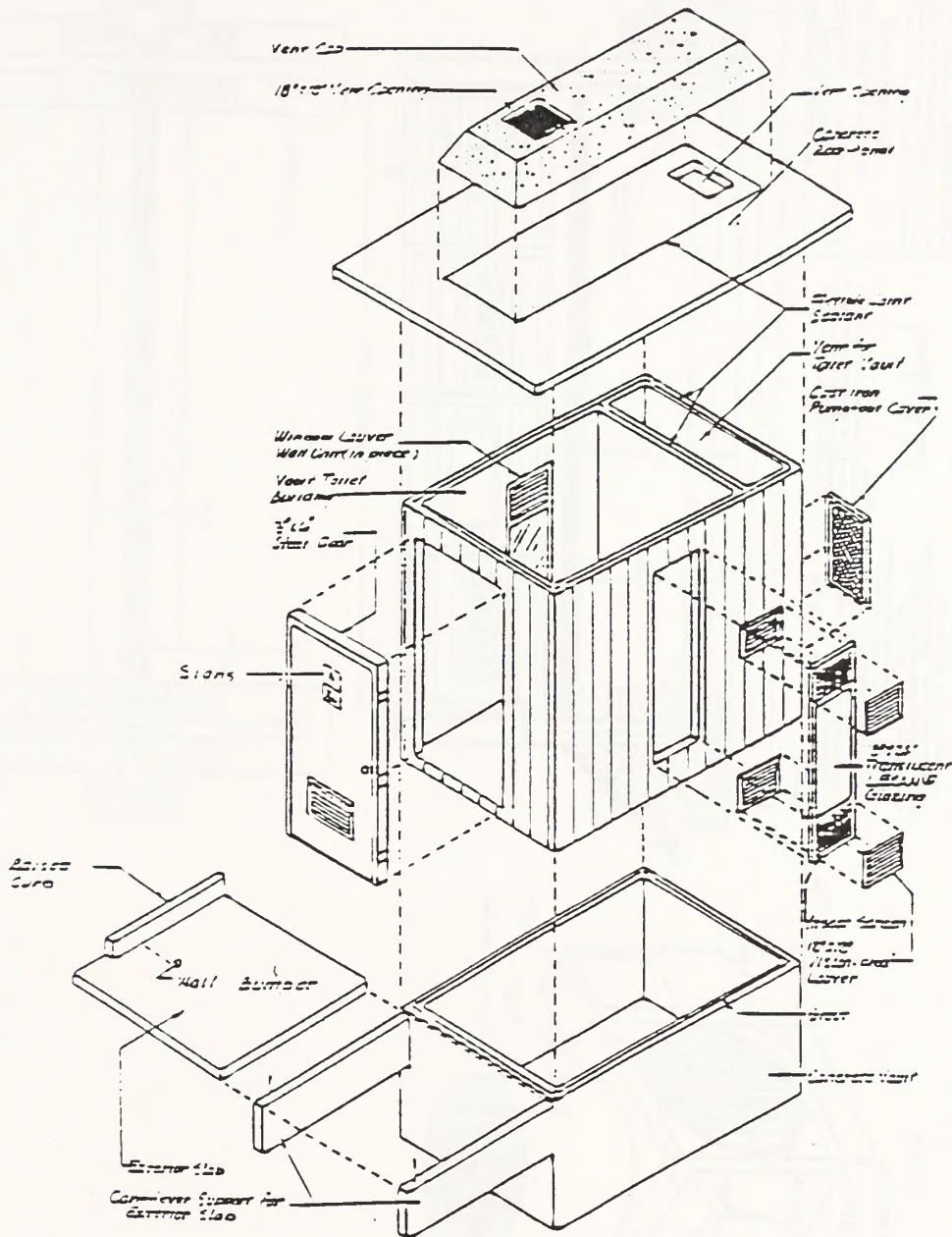
BLM standard Sign, S- 4, 11" X 14", no cost

BLM standard Sign, S- 46, no cost

Posts: \$ 7.00 X 10 = \$70.00

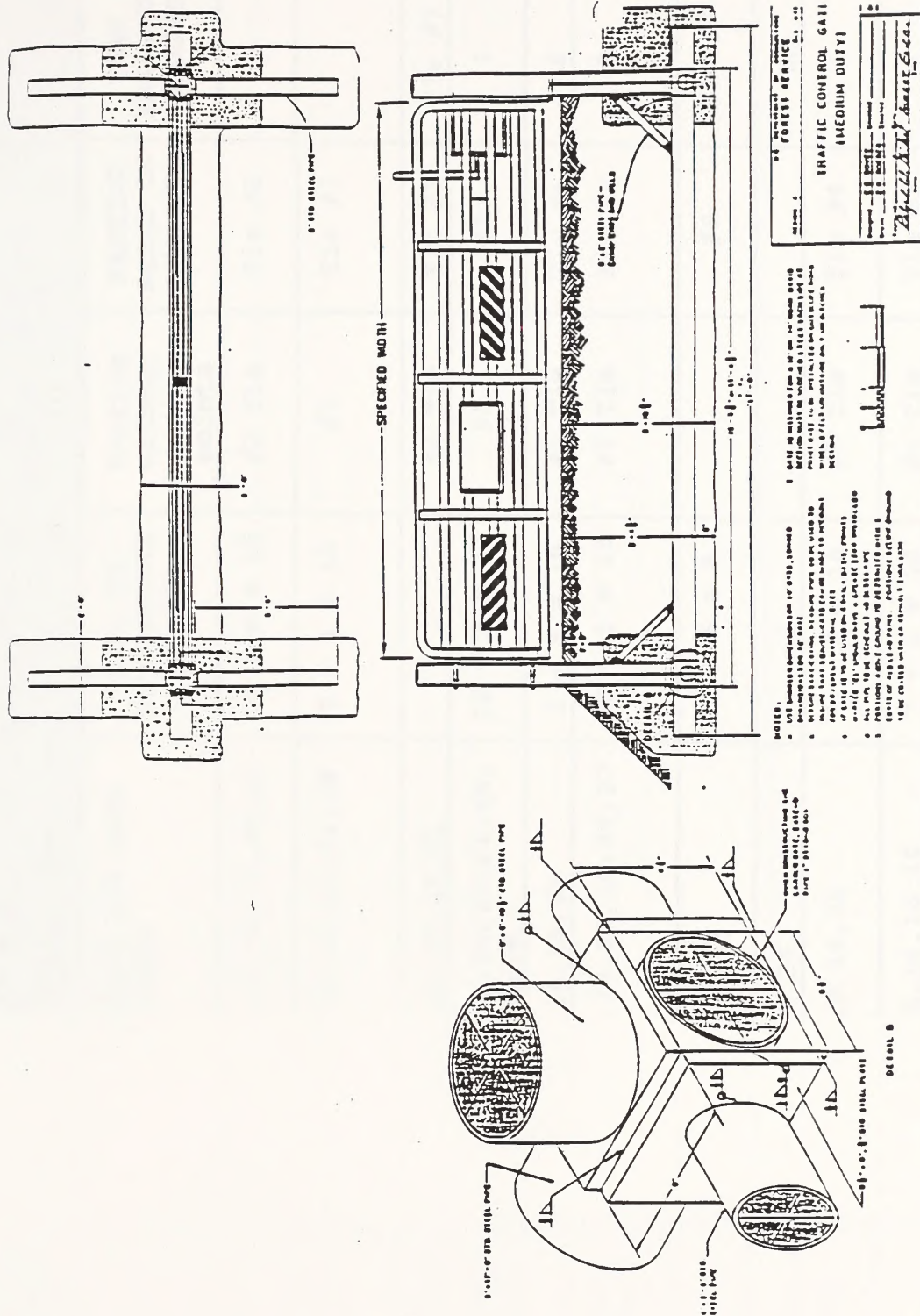
TOTAL ESTIMATED SIGN COST: \$ 70.00

APPENDIX B: Diagram for Handicap Accessible Toilet



NOTE: Detail No. 03421A, modified without concrete section.

APPENDIX C: Diagram for Steel Gate



**CHINKS PEAK/BLACKROCK CANYON
PUBLIC COMMENT TABLE OF ANALYSIS
AND BIM TEAM RANKING**

ISSUES	# OF COMMENTS FOR EACH ISSUE	TOTAL NO. OF COMMENTS (SCORE)	Ranking without adding points	RANKING BASED ON COMMENTS	TEAM ASSIGNED RANKING
Indiscriminate Shooting (Control of & Place to)	2, 5, 7, 8, 14, 15, 16, 18, 26, 27	10 + 5 = 15	#2 Tie	Tie #2	6
Closure Dates-For Existing as proposed 11/15-5/15 or 11/1-5/15 (also include snowmobile rest)	2, 5, 11, 14, 16, 22, 23, 24, 28	9 + 3 = 12	#3	Tie #3	
Closure Dates - Change from 11/5 - 5/15	7, 9, 10, 13, 14, 20, 21	7	#4 Tie	Tie #7	Tie #7
Manage Motorized Vehicles (ORVs) (Damage, Where Can go & Enhanced Opportunities)	1, 3, 5, 6, 7, 15, 16, 18, 21, 24, 27, 28	12 + 5 = 17	#1	#1	1
Litter Management	2, 6, 16, 18, 26	5 + 5 = 10	#5 Tie	Tie #4	8
Enforcement (minimize Regs if Possible, Higher visibility, Coop. Law w/County & Hammer Violators)	1, 2, 5, 9, 12, 14, 15, 16, 26, 27	10 + 5 = 15	#2 Tie	Tie #2	2
Deer Winter Range (Impacts on Wildlife)	5, 6, 16	3 + 5 = 8		#6	Tie #7
Non-Motorized Trail Availability	5, 26	2			10
Reconstruct Trails on Proper Slope to Minimize Soil Impacts	5, 8, 9, 16, 28	5 + 5 = 10	#5 Tie	Tie #4	3
Signing/I&E	1, 5, 7, 9, 14, 16, 18	7 + 5 = 12	#4 Tie	Tie #3	4
Improve Road in Bottom of Blackrock Canyon	1, 17	2 + 5 = 7		Tie #7	5
Play Area (Mud Hole)	1	1			
Leave Rd in Bottom Open- Restrict Areas out of Bottom	1, 12	2			

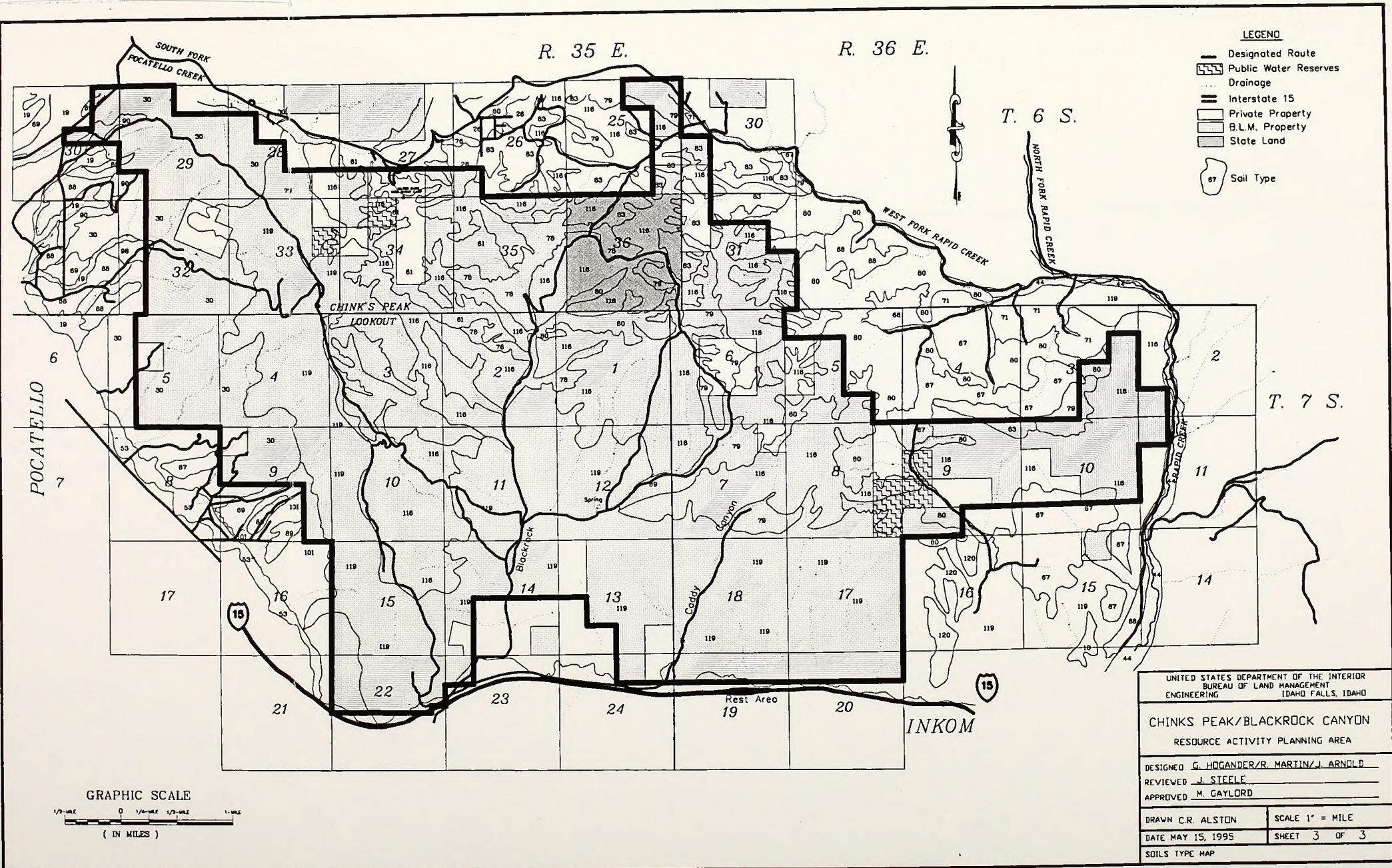
**CHINKS PEAK/BLACKROCK CANYON
PUBLIC COMMENT TABLE OF ANALYSIS
AND BLM TEAM RANKING**

ISSUES	# OF COMMENTS FOR EACH ISSUE	TOTAL NO. OF COMMENTS (SCORE)	Ranking without adding points	RANKING BASED ON COMMENTS	TEAM ASSIGNED RANKING
*Plan As Is (overall Support)	3,4,18,19,20	5			Tie #9
*This part has been added to each section indicated in bold numbers as the comments have supported the over all plan. The issues identified in the plan where given 5 additional points, except for the proposed restriction dates. The proposed dates were given only 3 points as some of the comments supporting this section only wanted a change in season restriction.					
Acquire Access - Specific to Moonlight/Buckskin (County Road into Blackrock)	5,17,21,28	4 + 5 = 9		#5	
Grazing	6,14	2			
Riparian Issue	6	1			Tie #9
Archaeological Concerns (For Interp. or no Interp.)	8,14	2			
Logging	8,14,16,25,28	5 + 5 = 10	#5 Tie	Tie #4	
Facility Construction (Yes or No)	9, 28	2			
Other	25, 26, 28	3			

APPENDIX E: Soils

<u>Blackrock Soil Types</u>		
<u>Map</u>	<u>Road and trail</u>	<u>Erosion</u>
<u>Unit</u>	<u>Capability</u>	<u>Potential</u>
10 - Bancroft silt loam, 12-20% slopes	Severe, erodes easily Limit trails	High
19 - Broncho Variant-Pocatello Complex, 20-50% slopes	Severe, slope concern Avoid ORV activity	Very High
30 - Cedarhill-Ririe-Water- canyon Complex, 30- 60% slopes	Severe, slope, erodes easily avoid ORV activity	Very High
53 - Hondo-Arbone Complex, 4-12% slopes	Moderate, dusty Limit trails	Medium
61 - Ireland-Hades-Cedarhill complex, 20-60% slopes	Severe, slope concern Limit trails	High
66 - Lanoak silt loam, 4-12% slopes	Severe, erodes easily	High
67 - Lanoak silt loam, 12-20% slopes	Severe, erodes easily Limit trails	High
71 - Lanoak-Greys association, 12-20% slopes	Severe, erodes easily Limit trails	High
78 - Moonlight silt loam, 30-60% slopes	Severe, slope concerns Avoid ORV activity	Very High
79 - Moonlight-Camelback association, 30-60% slopes	Severe, slope concerns Avoid ORV activity	Very High
80 - Moonlight-Pavohroo asso- ciation, 30-60% slopes	Severe, slope concerns Avoid ORV activity	Very High
83 - Pavohroo-Moonlight complex, 30-60% slopes	Severe, slope concerns Avoid ORV activity	Very High

87 - Pocatello Silt loam, 1-4% slopes	Severe, erodes easily	High
88 - Pocatello Silt loam, 4-8% slopes	Severe, erodes easily Limit trails	High
89 - Pocatello Silt loam, 8-12% slopes	Severe, erodes easily Limit trails	High
90 - Pocatello Silt loam, 12-20% slopes	Severe, erodes easily Avoid ORV activity	Very High
101 - Ririe-Watercanyon complex, 12-20% slopes	Severe, erodes easily Avoid ORV activity	High
105 - Rubble land-Haploxerolls complex, steep	Not rated Avoid ORV activity	High
113 - Urban land-Bahem-Broxon complex, 0-3% slopes	Severe, erodes easily Limit trails	High
115 - Valmar very cobbly silt loam, low precipitation, 40-80% slopes	Severe, slope concerns Avoid ORV activity	High
116 - Valmar-Camelback-Hades complex, 30-60% slopes	Severe, slope concerns Limit trails	Very High
119 - Valmar, low precipitation- Watercanyon-Hondoho complex, 20-50% slopes	Severe, slope concerns, erodes easily Avoid ORV activity	Very High



APPENDIX F: Vegetation/Wildlife: grasses, shrubs, trees, weeds

GRASSES

1. blue bunch wheat grass, *Pseudoroegneria spicata*
2. Kentucky bluegrass, *Poa pratensis*
3. Sandburg's bluegrass, *Poa sandbergii*
4. cheat grass, *Bromus tectorum*
5. Japanese brome, *Bromus japonicus*
6. Great Basin wild rye, *Leymus cinereus*
7. mountain brome, *Bromus carinatus*
8. blue rye, *Elymus glauca*
9. needle and thread grass, *Stipa comata*
10. Nevada bluegrass, *Poa nevadensis*
11. intermediate wheat grass, *Elytrigia intermedia*
12. crested wheat grass, *Agropyron cristatum*
13. slender wheat grass, *Elymus trachycaulus*
14. smooth brome, *Bromus inermis*
15. hair grass, *Deschampsia caespitosa*
16. annual bluegrass, *Poa annua*
17. Indian ricegrass, *Oryzopsis hymenoides*
18. June grass, *Koeleria cristata*
19. squirreltail, *Elymus elymoides*

SHRUBS

1. mountain sagebrush, *Artemisia tridentata* var. *vaseyana*
2. three-tip sagebrush, *Artemisia tripartita*
3. prairie sage, sagewort, *Artemisia ludoviciana*
4. tarragon, dragon sage, *Artemisia dracunculus*
5. bitter brush, *Purshia tridentata*
6. service berry, *Amelanchior alnifolia*
7. grey rabbit brush, *Chrysothamnus nauseosus*
8. green rabbit brush, *Chrysothamnus viscidiflorous*
9. silver sage, *Artemisia cana*
10. horse brush, *Tetradymia canescens*
11. snakeweed or match brush, *Gutierrezia sarothrae*
12. buckbrush or buckthorn, *Ceanothus velutinus*
13. buckwheat, *Eriogonum spp.*

TREES

1. big tooth maple, *Acer grandidentatum*
2. Rocky Mountain Maple, *Acer glabrum*
3. choke cherry, *Prunus virginiana*
4. Douglas-fir, *Pseudotsuga menzeisii*
5. mountain ash, *Sorbus scopulina*
6. Utah juniper, *Juniperus utahensis*
7. willow, *Salix spp.*

FORBS

1. brodiaea, *Brodiaea douglasii*
2. sego lily, *Calochortus nuttallii*
3. fritillary, *Fritillaria pudica*
4. foothill death camas, *Zigadenus paniculatus*
5. fiddleneck, *Amsinckia retorsra*
6. loco weed, *Astragalus purshii*
7. hood's phlox, *Phlox hoodii*
8. long-leaf phlox, *Phlox longifolia*
9. browse milkweed, *Astragalus cibarius*
10. coneflower, *Rudbeckia occidentalis*
11. meadow rue, *Thalictrum occidentale*
12. microsteris, *Microsteris gracilis*
13. bindweed or morning glory, *Convolvulus arvensis*
14. blue-eyed Mary, *Collinsia parviflora*
15. buttercup, *Ranunculus glaberrimus*
16. buttercup, *Ranunculus jovis*
17. houndstongue, *Cynoglossum officinale*
18. waterleaf, *Hydrophyllum capitatum*
19. nine-leaf lomatium, *Lomatium triternatum*
20. tapertip hawks beard, *Crepis acuminata*
21. sunflower, *Helianthus annus*
23. watercress, *Rorippa nasturtium var. aquaticum*
24. lupine, *Lupinus bicolor*
25. low larkspur, *Delphinium nelsoni*
26. tall larkspur, *Delphinium oecidentalis*

WEEDS

1. dyers woad, *Isatis tinctoria*
2. purple-stamen mullein, *Verbascum virgatum*
3. mullein, *Verbascum thapsis*

WILDLIFE

The area supports a substantial wintering population of mule deer, *Odocoileus hemionus*. Other animals that are commonly found in the Blackrock Canyon and immediate vicinity are:

1. coyote, *Canis latrans*
2. badger, *Taxidea taxus*
3. whitetail jackrabbit, *Lepus townsendi*
4. deer mouse, *Peromyscus maniculatus*
5. sagebrush lizard, *Sceloporus graciosus*
6. gopher snake, *Pituophis melanoleucus*
7. black-capped chickadee, *Parus atricapillus*
8. Brewer's sparrow, *Spizella breweri*
9. mountain bluebird, *Sialia currucoides*
10. western meadowlark, *Sturnella neglecta*
11. gray partridge, *Perdix perdix*
12. sage grouse, *Centrocercus urophasianus*
13. magpie, *Pica pica*
14. red-tail hawk, *Buteo jamaicensis*

APPENDIX G: Site interpretation at Katsilometes Spring

An interpretive sign for the "Katsilometes Cabin" area may say, "This 160 acre parcel of land was first patented to B. Thomas Morris in 1917. Mr. Morris built the house that used to stand here and made a living herding sheep in these hills. He may have constructed the adjacent shearing corral as well. The land was later sold to the Katsilometes family, who also grazed sheep here. Apparently, the house was used by Mexican sheep herders until they no longer needed it and intentionally burned it down. The Bureau of Land Management acquired this property and the historic structures on it through a land exchange in 1978. **Please help us preserve these structures by leaving them as you found them.**"

APPENDIX H: References

- * Pocatello Off-Road Vehicle Plan, approved August 15, 1980
- * Bureau of Land Management, January 8, 1988. Pocatello Resource Management Plan/Environmental Impact Statement
- * USDA, Soil Conservation Service, September, 1987. Soil Survey of Bannock County Area, Idaho, Parts of Bannock and Power Counties
- * Vegetation Treatment on BLM Land in Thirteen Western States Environmental Impact Statement, June 5, 1991.
- * Anderson, A. L., 1928, Portland Cement materials near Pocatello, Idaho: Idaho Geological Survey (Old Idaho Bureau of Mines and Geology), Pamphlet 28, 15 p.
- * Burgel, W. D. Rodgers, D. W., and Link, P. K., 1987, Mesozoic and Cenozoic structures of the Pocatello region, southeastern Idaho, in Miller, W. R., editor, The thrust belt revisited: Wyoming Geological Association Guidebook, 38th Field Conference.
- * Kellogg, K. S., and Skipp B., 1988, A proposed duplex structure above the Putnam Thrust, northern Portneuf and Pocatello Ranges, southeastern Idaho: U.S. Geological Survey, M.S. 913, 32 p.
- * Link, P. K., LeFebre, G. B., Pogue, K. R., and Burgel, W. D., 1985, Structural geology between the Putnam Thrust and the Snake River Plain, southeastern Idaho in Utah Geological Association Publication 14: Orogenic Patterns and stratigraphy of north-central Utah and southeastern Idaho.
- * Muller, S. C., 1978, The geology and distribution of base metal deposits in the Fort Hall Mining District, Bannock County, Idaho: Idaho State Univ. Master's thesis, 194 p.
- * Idaho Falls District Fire Management Activity Plan; 1994
- * Idaho Falls District Wildfire Prevention Plan; 1992
- * Idaho Falls District Law Enforcement Plan and Resource Needs/Work Load Analysis; 1993
- * Chinks Peak/Blackrock Canyon Road Realignment EA #ID-030-95045, signed April 7, 1995;

- * Katsilometes Cabin EA #ID-030-133, signed October 18, 1993;
- * Bitter Brush Planting EA #ID-030-5-033, signed March 1, 1995;
- * Blackrock Canyon ORMV (Off-Road Motor Vehicle) EA #ID-030-3-80, signed June 30, 1993;
- * Chinks Peak Fire Rehab, job #1582, signed August 30, 1974;
- * Caddy Canyon PUTR Planting CER # - ID-030-0-54CE, signed May 4, 1990;
- * Pocatello Mine Safety Fencing EA # - ID-030-9-20CE, signed December 7, 1988;
- * Pocatello Spring Development Programmatic EA# - ID-030-4-375, signed October 2, 1985;
- * Pocatello ORMV Trail Reconstruction and Rehabilitation EA# - ID-030-0-47, signed June 12, 1990.

APPENDIX I: Process Used to Evaluate Public Comments:

Once the comment period for the Chink's Peak/Blackrock Canyon Resource Activity Plan was over, the BLM Planning Team reviewed all comments received. As comment sheets were received, they were issued a number to ease tracking of the comments latter.

The first step in the evaluation process was to identify all the issues/main points in each comment sheet. As there was some overlap between the issues derived from the public comment, those overlap issues were categorized and put onto a spread sheet. The team then placed the comment sheet number that coincided with each individual issue/category. From here, the team was able to depict the issues that were most prominent. The team comment summary was then attached to the original public comment sheet.

After all of the issues were identified and each comment sheet number was placed in the proper issue section, the team was able to identify and rank, based solely on the number of times each issue was raised, what the most important issue was for this planning process.

The top 10 issues were addressed and identified in the alternative. Even though some issues did not rank out as high, they were not forgotten, and may be considered/utilized in later stages of this planning process.

Meeting the needs of the Resources is the number one issue that must be met in driving the alternatives/options available for this plan and subsequent Environmental Assessment. Therefore, in the implementation and justification for the preferred alternative, each of the issues raised by the public was weighed against the effects and impacts on the resources.

Glossary of Terms:

All-Terrain Vehicles (ATV's) - Any recreation vehicle with two or more tires, under 600 lbs and less than 48 inches wide, traveling on low pressure tires less than 5 psi and designed to be ridden by one person.

Animal Unit Month (AUM) - The amount of forage needed to support one cow, one cow and calf or five sheep for one month. It is about 950 lbs. of air-dry vegetation.

Lithic scatters - an area where a Native American chipped arrowheads and stone tools. It is a place where you find stone chips of obsidian, chert, agate, etc.

Off-Road Vehicle (ORV) - This is a class of motorized vehicles designed primarily for riding on unpaved roads and trails. They include motorcycles, jeeps, 4-wheel drive pickups and sport utility vehicles (for example, Suzuki Samurai, Chevrolet Blazer), All-Terrain Vehicles snowmobiles and snowcats (Thiokols).

RMP, Resource Management Plan - Pocatello Resource Management Plan is a long-term planning document which was completed and signed on January 8, 1988. Several Resource management decisions were made in this document which are outlined on pages 3-10. A copy of the RMP is available in the Pocatello Resource Area

ROS - Recreation Opportunity Spectrum, - A continuum used to characterize recreation opportunities in terms of setting, activity, and experience opportunities. The spectrum contains six classes which are: 1) Primitive, 2) Semi-Primitive non-motorized, 3) Semi-Primitive Motorized, 4) Roaded Natural, 5) Rural, 6) Modern Urban.

Roaded Natural - is part of the ROS and is identified by the following six characteristics:

- 1) Opportunity to affiliate with other users in developed sites but with some chance of privacy. Self-reliance on outdoor skill of only moderate importance. Little challenge and risk.
- 2) Mostly natural appearing environmental as viewed from sensitive roads and trails.
- 3) Interaction between users at camp sites is of moderate importance
- 4) Some obvious on site controls of users
- 5) Access and travel is conventional motorized including sedan, trailers, RV's, and some motor homes
- 6) Vegetative alterations done to maintain desired visual and recreational characteristics

Scenic Quality - a measure of the visual appeal of the land based on landform, vegetation, water, color, adjacent scenery, scarcity and cultural modifications. Scenic quality is rated low, medium or high in this document and shown on Figure 3 as a letter behind a roman numeral.

SRMA, Special Recreation Management Area - an area either administratively or Congressionally recognized that possesses outstanding recreation resources or where recreation use causes significant user conflicts, visitor safety problems, or resource damage.

Vehicle: - any device used for transporting personnel or material with wheels, tracks, or skids for traveling over land, water, or snow, and is propelled by a living or nonliving power source contained or carried on or within the device. Includes bicycles.

Visual Resource Management (VRM) - the inventory and planning actions taken to identify visual values and to establish objectives for managing those values; and the management actions taken to achieve the visual management objectives.

II - VRM class objective. The objective of this class is to retain the existing character of the landscape. The level of change to the characteristic landscape should be low. Management activities may be seen, but should not attract the attention of the casual observer. Any changes must repeat the basic elements of form line color and texture found in the predominant natural features of the characteristic landscape.

III class objective. The objective of this class is to partially retain the existing character of the landscape. The level of change to the characteristic landscape should be moderate. Management activities may attract the attention but should not dominate the view of the casual observer. Changes should repeat the basic elements found in the predominant natural features of the characteristic landscape.

IV class objective - The objective of this class is to provide for management activities which require major modifications of the existing character of the landscape. The level of change to the characteristic landscape can be high. These management activities may dominate the view and be the major focus of viewer attention. However, every attempt should be made to minimize the impact of these activities through careful location, minimal disturbance, and repeating basic elements.

Chinks Peak/Blackrock Canyon

Resource Activity Management Plan



*Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management
Pocatello Resource Area*

May 26, 1995

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I. INTRODUCTION

A. Purpose and Need

For the purposes of this plan, the Chinks Peak/Blackrock Canyon planning area is considered to include all the lands bounded by I-15 from Inkom to the Pocatello Creek Exit (#71), east to Parks Road, south to Buckskin Road, east to Hoot Owl Road, east to Rapid Creek Road and south to Inkom. The planning area contains approximately 13,806 acres of public land which includes Chink's Peak, Blackrock Canyon, and Caddy Canyon. Blackrock Canyon/Caddy Canyon is approximately 5 road miles southeast of Pocatello. The planning area is part of the designated Pocatello Special Recreation Management Area (SRMA). The county, including the City of Pocatello, currently has a population of 66,026. Figures 1 and 2 are a general location map and planning area map respectively.

The highest point in the planning area is Chink's Peak at 6,791 feet on the west edge of the canyon. There is a BLM-operated fire lookout and several communication sites at the top.

The planning area is being used intensively by many different user groups. The current level of use is causing resource degradation, primarily road and trail erosion, littering, and health and safety issues. Implementation of a balanced management strategy now will help reduce impacts on the land and ensure sustainable long-term use of the area.

Trash dumping is one of the most noticeable problems in the planning area. "No Dumping" signs have been posted around the planning area, but it has not stopped violators from disposing of trash. Another part of this problem results from target shooting. Some sites are used consistently. Most are strewn with bottles, boxes, cans and other items left by the shooters. Organized clean-ups have been conducted in Blackrock Canyon, and will be required until effective enforcement is implemented. When several shooters are using the canyon, the random direction of fire can pose a safety risk to other users.

Some drivers of off-road vehicles (ORVs encompass four-wheel drives, all-terrain-vehicles, and motorcycles) are not staying on designated roads and trails. This is a result of individuals hill climbing, cutting switch backs, "mud bogging", and just plain trying to navigate around wet areas in the existing road. This causes erosion problems and increases sedimentation during wet weather in the small stream that flows seasonally through the canyon. If this type of use continues, current vegetation loss could become permanent. In addition, some travel routes need to be rerouted and rehabilitated to ensure visitor safety and to stop erosion losses.

FIGURE 1. Location Map

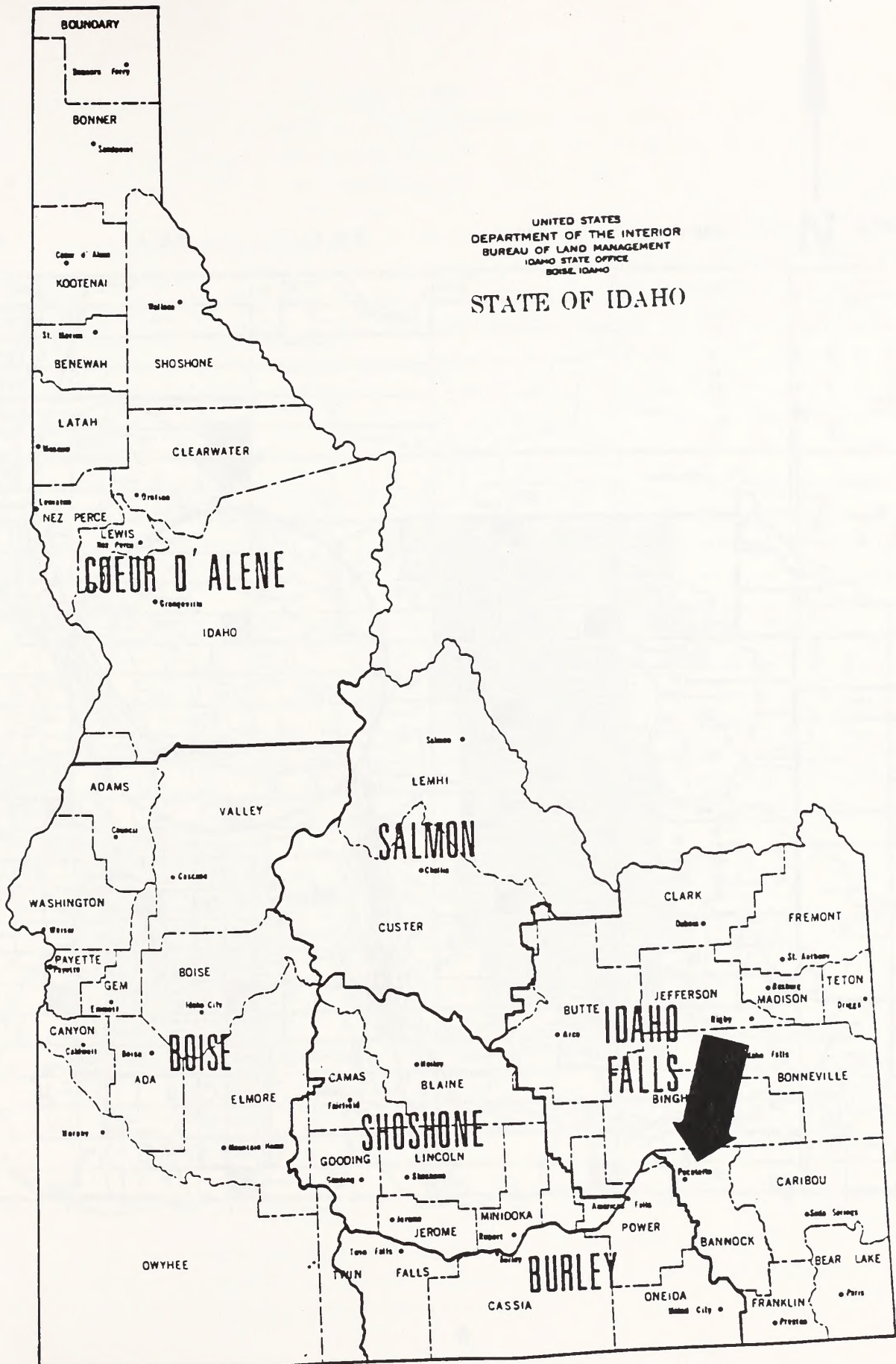
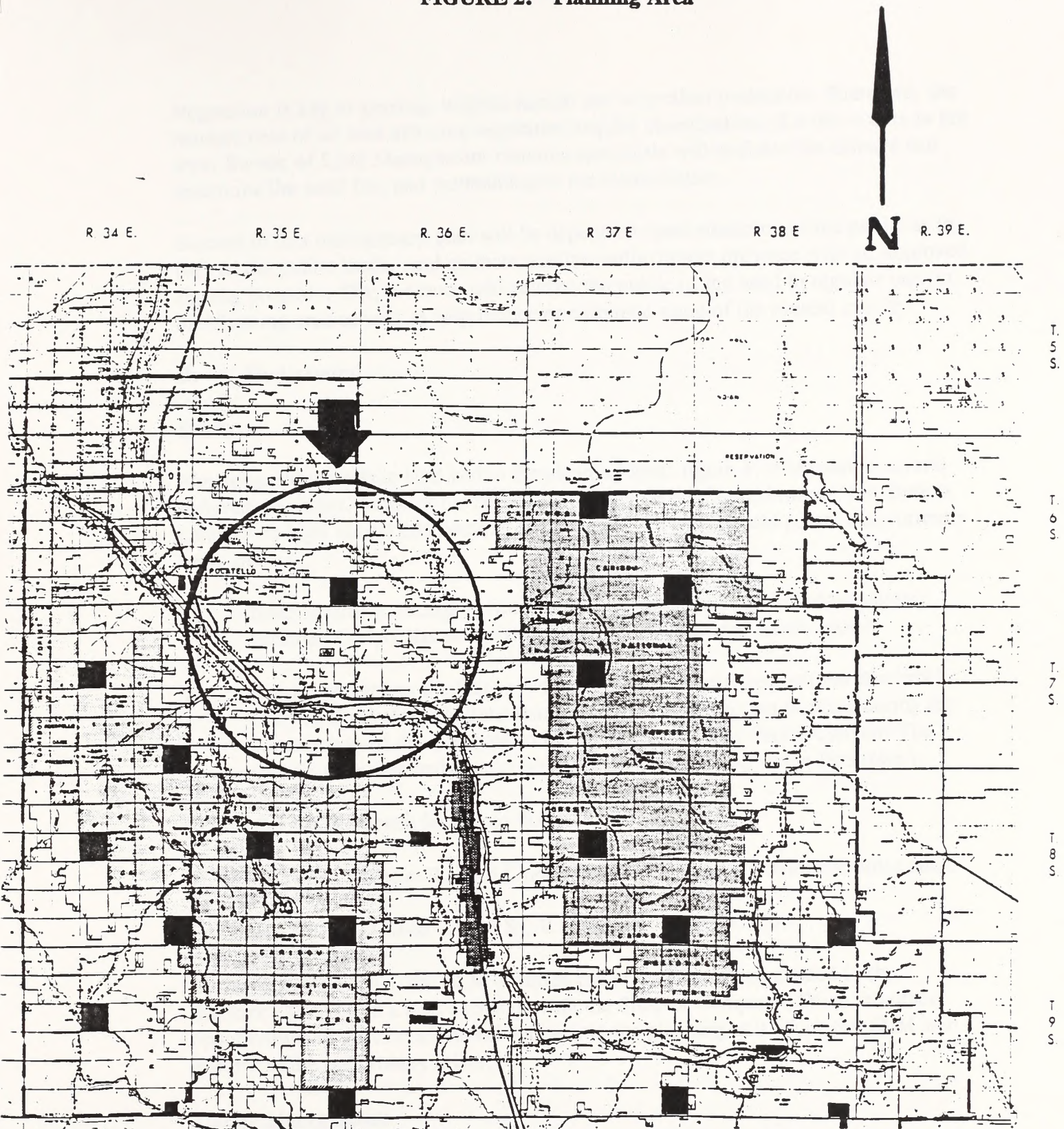


FIGURE 2. Planning Area



Vegetation is key to grazing, wildlife habitat and watershed protection. Therefore, the management of all uses affecting vegetation require coordination. If a fire occurs in the area, Bureau of Land Management resource specialists will evaluate the damage and determine the need for, and methodologies for rehabilitation.

Success of this management plan will be dependent upon education of the public as to uses of the public lands, and an increased law enforcement presence with an improved signing program. This presence will educate the public of the need to regulate uses in the planning area as well as help reduce or eliminate some of the present misuse.

B. Background

Realty:

The access to the public land within the planning area, figure 4, is located in several different locations. Some of the access points may be by physical means, but there is actually no legal access into some of these areas. The legal access points that currently exist are:

- 1) Road easement through private land at the south end of Blackrock canyon. Bannock County has declared this road as a recognized public access.
- 2) Road easement by the State of Idaho Highway Department off the Blackrock Canyon Road along the Interstate into Caddy Canyon (put in place during the construction of the Interstate so livestock could access Caddy Canyon. The traditional access had been dissolved with the existence of the Interstate.)
- 3) Off the Blackrock Road into Box Canyon.
- 4) The end of Barton Road to Chinks Peak Fire Lookout/Communications sites.
- 5) Off Buckskin Road in T. 6 S., R. 35 E., NW 1/4 Sec. 30.

During the late 1970's, the BLM acquired the private lands that existed in the Blackrock Canyon in a land exchange with the Simplot Company. There are other opportunities to provide additional access into the planning unit which the BLM will explore as the opportunity arises.

Timber Management:

There are over mature stands of Douglas-fir totaling approximately 395 acres on Chink's Peak at the north end of Blackrock Canyon. About 60% of the trees have been killed by the Douglas-fir bark beetles since 1989.

There is a high demand for both personal and commercial use of forest products in the Pocatello area including; Christmas trees, firewood, house logs, and saw timber. At this time, there are no designated areas for personal use of these products within the Pocatello Resource Area due to the lack of legal access. Any new roads needed in the future to access the planning area for timber harvest/removal could be closed or included in the ORV trail system. Forestry activities would require a separate plan and EA since it is out of the scope of this plan.

Grazing:

The Blackrock Allotment has a long history of sheep grazing. With the overall steepness in Blackrock Canyon and limited water distribution, herded sheep are able to most efficiently utilize the available forage.

The east end of the planning area, i.e., the area east of Caddy Canyon, is a spring/early summer grazing allotment for cattle. The gentler hills and better water distribution allow reasonably good use by cattle. Monitoring shows the overall area is in good condition and because of this, there is no need to change the current grazing plan.

Cultural:

The prehistoric inhabitants of southern Idaho traveled into what is now Utah and Wyoming periodically, as well as north up into the Snake River plain. What cultural chronology the BLM has for this area comes from excavations around the Blackfoot Reservoir and from the Malad area dating to 7000 and 8000 years before present respectively. Prehistoric artifacts recovered from Blackrock Canyon, as well as the Marsh Creek Valley, suggest use for these area may extend as far back as 4000 years before present.

With the western expansion of Euro-Americans through southern Idaho came conflicts between the native Shoshone-Bannocks and settlers. In April 1869, the Fort Hall reservation was established for the confinement of the Shoshone-Bannock. The original reservation contained approximately 1,800,000 acres, including Blackrock Canyon and the surrounding planning unit, but was reduced to 524,000 acres by the 1950's.

The discovery of gold during the 1860's increased the demand for a railroad to Montana. From Brigham City, Utah, the Utah and Northern Railroad Company built track to Franklin, Oxford, Red Rock and Arimo. From Arimo, it continued up Marsh Valley to present day Blackrock. Blackrock continued to be located on a small railroad right-of-way in the reservation until 1880. Eventually Blackrock expanded from a simple stage station to a viable community, decreasing in later years.

Historic use of Blackrock Canyon has historically included sheep herding. Two historic sites have been recorded on the lands patented to B. Thomas Morris (10BK195) in 1917 and Eugene and Erastus Barnard (10BK194) in 1921. In addition, a prehistoric lithic scatter (10BK193) has been recorded in Blackrock Canyon. This site must be evaluated for eligibility to the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) before the project is allowed to proceed. Should the site be determined eligible, the project plan must be modified to protect the resource.

Recreation and Visuals:

The planning area can have a season of use up to about 220 days for motorized and wheeled type vehicles. This averages from about mid-April through mid-November. This is dependent on the type of winter and spring the area receives. It can be as short as 180 days due to the inclement weather. Overall, the planning area is visited year round and has such activities as; ORV use, target shooting, deer hunting, hiking, horseback riding, sight-seeing, mountain biking, hang-gliding and grazing. Occasional camping is also observed.

The area is easily accessible by vehicle. (See above realty section) Generally groups of 1-5 persons utilize the area, staying 1-2 days. Traditionally, the majority of use occurs during the summer recreation season, Memorial Day through Labor Day. There is an additional high use period during the fall hunting season.

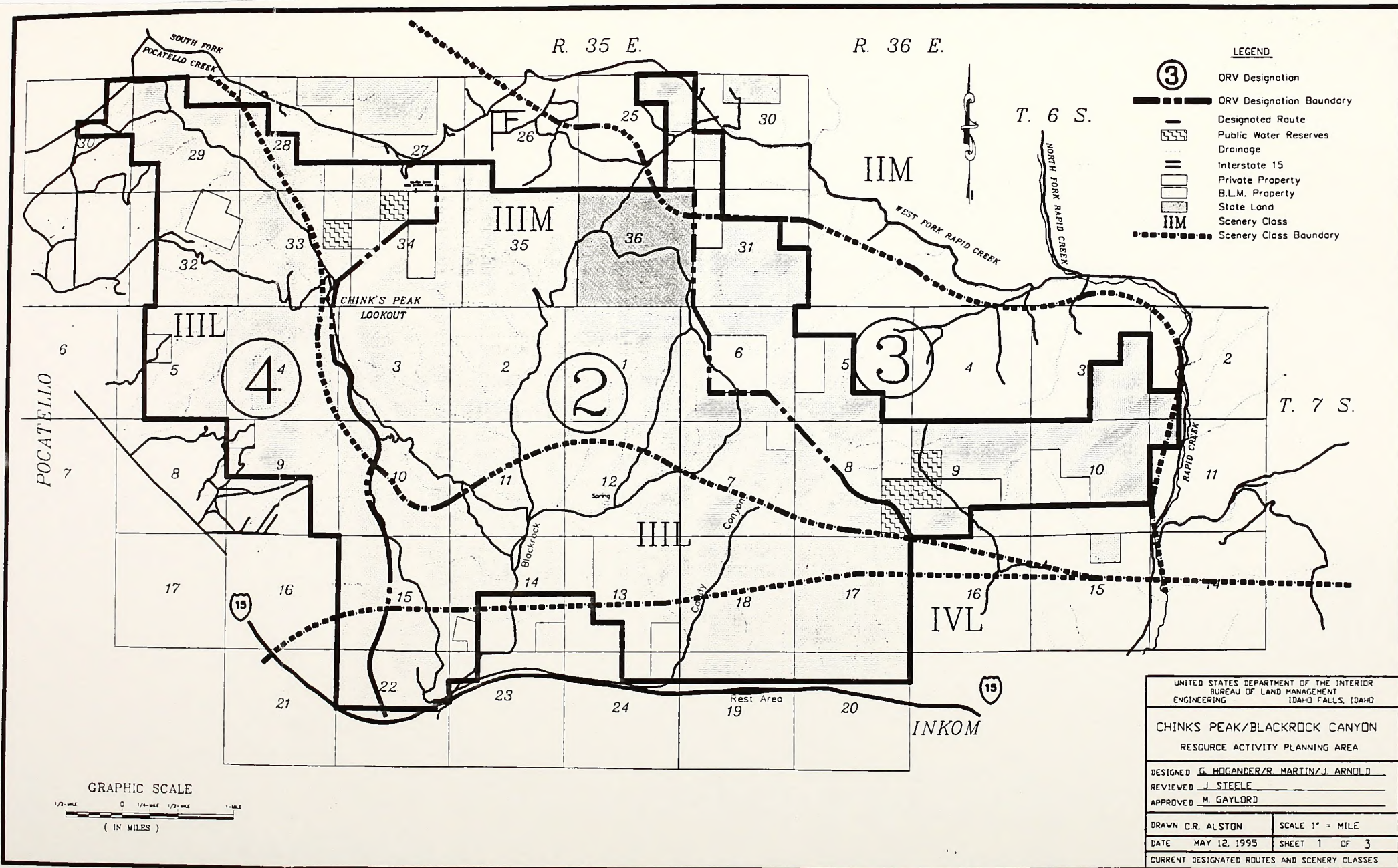
The Recreation Opportunity Spectrum for the planning area is roaded natural which is defined in the glossary. Generally, a roaded natural setting is primarily natural-looking with some visible evidence of human use. It provides for all recreation uses that do not require expensive facilities such as stadiums.

The Visual Resource Management Class is Class III. The objective for class III is to partially retain the existing character of the landscape. Activities may attract attention but should not dominate the view of the casual observer. Changes should repeat the basic elements found in the predominant natural features of the characteristic landscape.

Scenery class for the area as defined in the Pocatello RMP/EIS is low along the foothills visible from the freeway and medium in Blackrock Canyon and along Buckskin and Hoot Owl Roads.

In 1980 the Pocatello Off-Road Vehicle Plan made the following motorized vehicle designations within the Chinks Peak/Blackrock Canyon planning area: 1) limited to existing roads and trails, 2) designated roads and trails, or 3) closed to over-snow vehicles. Figure 3 shows the roads and trails that are open, and those additional routes that have been created by recreation users in the area since the original plan was

FIGURE 3: ORV DESIGNATIONS AND SCENERY CLASS



approved. The Pocatello Off-Road Vehicle Designation Plan was adopted in its entirety in 1988 upon approval of the Pocatello RMP.

While Blackrock Canyon is closed to over-snow vehicles, the hills north and east of Caddy Canyon (northeast subunit) and the Chink's Peak area are open. All areas within the planning unit are currently closed to all motorized vehicles from March 15 to May 15 of each year. This is due to the adverse conditions likely to be encountered during the spring runoff period.

Because of the types of use being managed for in the canyon, selected roads and trails need to be rerouted to protect the soil resources and/or visitor safety. A few trails need to be closed and rehabilitated. Directional and interpretive signs are necessary. Trash receptacles are desirable, and toilets will become necessary with increased use of the proposed trail head.

Geology:

The Blackrock Canyon area is located in the Pocatello Range, a northern extension, geologically, of the Bannock Range to the south. The two ranges are formed from a core of Precambrian to early Paleozoic rocks. Thrust faults and low-angle normal faults divide the area into north-south trending features with 'windows' of the oldest rocks exposed near the core of the ranges.

The geology is complex with widely varying structural interpretations used to explain the geology of the core areas. Geologists who have studied the area include Ludlum (1942), Trimble (1976), Link (1980-present), LeFebre (1984), and Kellogg and Skipp (1988). The area is unique, not well understood locally, and offers students and professionals an ongoing opportunity for study.

The higher elevations are formed from resistant quartzite, diamictite, or conglomerate. Less resistant metamorphics, argillites, slates, amphibolites, and shales form the lower elevation valleys and swales. Tertiary volcanics and sediments of the Starlight Formation are present near the Portneuf Valley and to the west. These rocks fill ancient valleys and down-faulted areas. They are also part of the puzzle since low-angle faulting has placed them in tilted, structurally deformed positions.

Quaternary-age terrace deposits mapped as Q1 by Trimble (1976), line the Portneuf Valley to elevations as high as 5800 feet. These deposits are highly susceptible to erosion.

The Portneuf Gap/Chinks Peak area was the scene of intense mineral exploration following the land rush in 1902. Several small mines developed for copper, silver, and nickel. They were located in the Gap, near Chinks Peak, and on Indian Mountain

south of the Gap. Small mine tunnels and shafts are located throughout the area. The mines only operated fully from about 1904-1916 when most production ceased.

Limestone was fairly intensely explored in Blackrock Canyon in the 1920's; however, no deposits from the Blackrock Canyon Limestone have been developed, and its present value is very low.

The Blackrock Canyon/Portneuf Gap/Chinks Peak area is a rare example of a complex structural geology. It represents a unique type of "window" into deep-seated geologic features. It contains a full suite of minerals produced by regional metamorphism. It also displays a thick sequence of Precambrian rocks which lead to the Cambrian boundary line. There is also a possible Precambrian angular unconformity, basal Precambrian limestone and breccia deposits, Precambrian granitic dikes and sills, and unusual mineralization associated with both the metamorphics and with post Precambrian age copper mineralization.

The unique geology needs to be protected with a natural area classification.

Soils and Vegetation:

Appendix A shows a map and list of the soils found in the canyon. Soil capabilities dictate some of the parameters of trail design, the revegetation potential after a fire and the amount of forage the land can produce for wildlife and livestock. All the soils in the canyon have a high erosion potential. This means that trails and roads require additional attention to grade, design, and location to avoid problems with siltation and maintenance.

The area is generally a sagebrush-grass vegetation type with various areas of mountain brush/big tooth maple, and Douglas Fir scattered throughout the planning area.

Weeds are a problem in Blackrock Canyon. Dyer's woad is the principal concern because of its aggressive nature and ability to displace native species. Purple-stamen mullein present in the canyon is not recognized as a noxious weed by the State of Idaho at this time, but it also displaces native vegetation. The majority of the infestations of these two plants is along the south slopes of the canyon above Interstate 15. Control of weeds by herbicides must be done with caution since herbicides will kill deer winter browse as well as the target species. Helicopter spraying should not be done in this area because aerially applied spray is highly susceptible to drift and non-target vegetation can be killed.

Wildlife:

The planning area does not hold any unique wildlife, but it is a major deer winter range. This is the reason for the snowmobile closure from Chinks Peak to the West Fork of Rapid Creek drainage. This closure eliminates one of the significant recreation conflicts with wildlife. The other recreation conflict is the early spring use of motor vehicle use and recreational shooting in Blackrock Canyon proper. Spring grazing use by livestock does not pose a conflict with wintering deer. This is because the vegetation has time to complete leaf growth, seed set, and store carbohydrates after grazing ends. Wintering deer have the same cured vegetation that they would under ungrazed conditions, albeit in lesser quantities.

Appendix B lists common vegetation and wildlife species that can be found in the planning area.

Hydrology:

The planning unit contains several live and intermittent streams and springs. The most prominent are Blackrock Canyon, Caddy Canyon, West Fork of Rapid Creek, South Fork of Pocatello Creek, and a spring with no name in T. 7 S., R. 36 E., Sec. 15. Generally, these springs/creeks will run year round, but on dry years some of the smaller tributaries and springs may go dry.

An example of this is the creek that flows down Blackrock Canyon. Generally on a good year, it will run nearly to the mouth of the canyon. Then, as the spring starts to dry and precipitation diminishes, the amount of water in the creek will recede higher up the drainage.

In the spring of the year, this creek in particular will run heavy with silt and mud from the adjacent roads and trails in the canyon. This is generally due to the unauthorized hill climbs and "mud boggs" adjacent to the creek. In times of heavy snow melt and spring run off, the large amount of water running down these roads and trails is such that any obstructions in the roads tends to divert the water off the road. This in turn starts to produce a cut in the road shoulder causing undue degradation of the soil. This cutting of the road bank results in the movement of the soil into the creek.

II. OBJECTIVES

As a multiple-use and sustained yield agency, the BLM is charged with management of public lands consistent with public demand and the capabilities of the land.

The Chinks Peak/Blackrock Canyon planning area is located within the Pocatello Special Recreation Management Area (SRMA). An SRMA is defined as an area either

administratively or Congressionally recognized that possesses outstanding recreation resources or where recreation use causes significant user conflicts, visitor safety problems, or resource damage.

The general goal for the Pocatello SRMA is to upgrade and provide sustainable recreation and other resource opportunities consistent with a roaded-natural recreation setting. At the same time the BLM needs to accommodate and ensure compatibility with other existing uses such as: grazing, wildlife, timber management, protection of the soils, etc. It is important that the BLM do this without causing degradation of the area through soil or vegetation loss, and without increasing any fire or health risks associated with the project.

The following decisions were made in the Pocatello Resource Management Plan/Environmental Impact Statement (RMP/EIS) which was signed in January, 1988. The RMP sets long-term management goals and objectives for the different activities that the BLM manages with in the Pocatello Resource Area. Under each decision listed below are the objectives of this activity plan that have been designed to help meet those goals. This activity plan will make and implement those decisions contained within the RMP/EIS.

RMP Decisions (Lands/Access):

PL-13 "BLM would attempt to acquire 9,687 acres of private land and 9,880 acres of State land through land exchange."

AC-41 "Acquire about 44 miles of road and trail easements for public access to 37,300 acres of public land."

Activity Plan Objective:

* Figure 4 shows 640 acres of State Land, 540 acres of private land and 3 miles of easements as proposed for acquisition in this plan. Specifically they are:

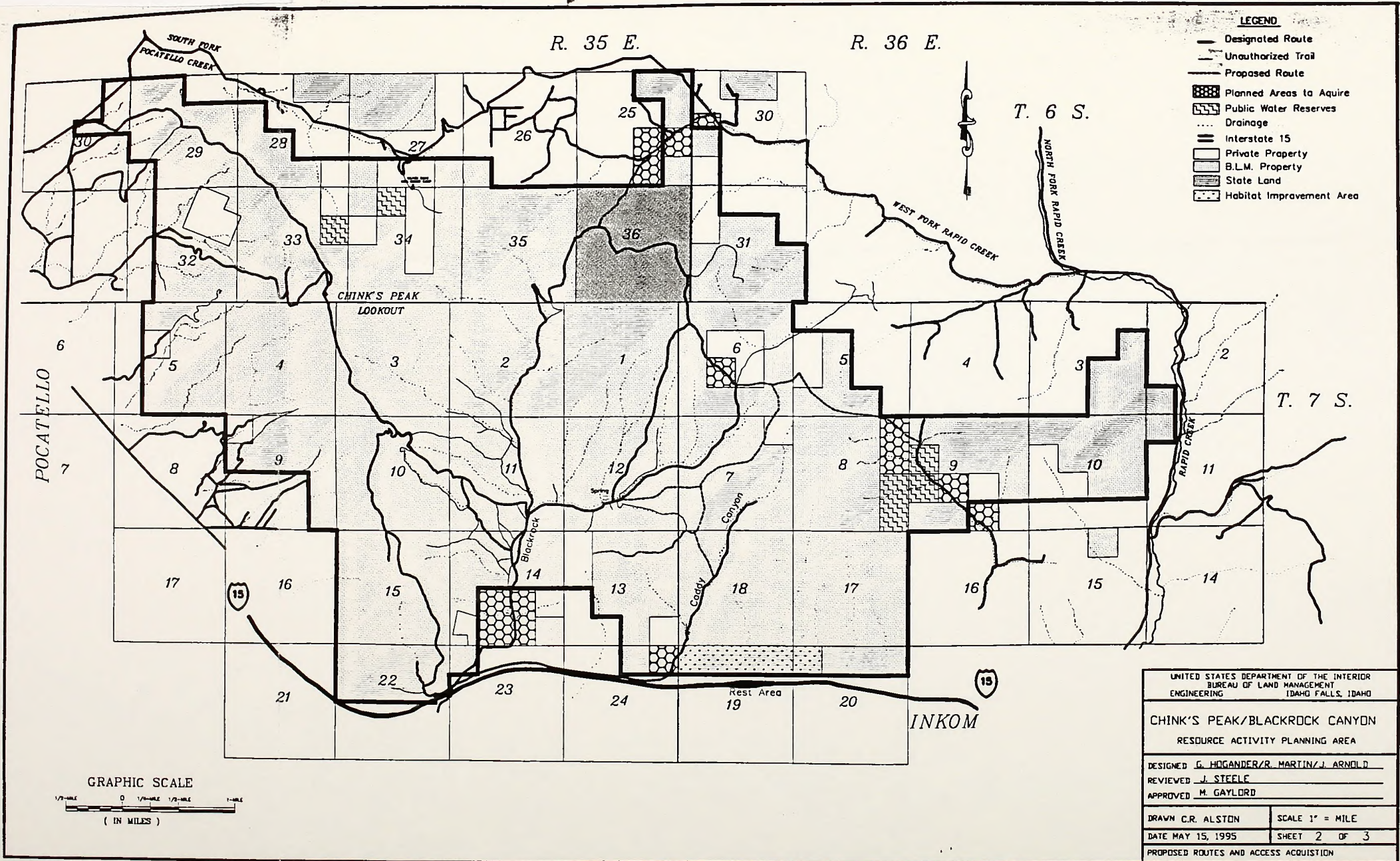
* State Land in T. 6 S., R. 35 E., Section 36, 640 acres

* Either the private lands or an easement from Buckskin Road in T. 6 S., R. 35 E., Section 30 to the above mentioned Section 36, 140 acres or 1 mile of road

* The private lands or an easement in T. 7 S, R. 36 E, Section 6, 40 acres or ¼ mile of road

* The private lands or an easement at the mouth of Blackrock Canyon and at Caddy Canyon, 200 acres or ¾ mile of road

FIGURE 4: PROPOSED ROUTES AND ACCESS ACQUISITION



* Acquire easements and designate a route to allow public access from the Inkom area, 160 acres or 1 mile of road

Explanation:

The preferred method of acquisition is by exchange, but purchase from a willing seller is an option.

RMP Decisions (Forestry):

PF-15 "Intensively manage 12,177 acres of commercial forest, using clear-cut, shelterwood, and group selection harvest methods."

PF-16 "Manage 1,078 acres of commercial forest to benefit other resources."

PF-17 "Manage 28,011 acres of woodland for production of woodland products."

Activity Plan Objective:

* Assess feasibility of a salvage timber sale for about 100,000 bd. ft.

Explanation:

Within the planning area are approximately 580 acres of commercial forest land and 2,500 acres of woodland. Timber management is subject to public demand for forestry products and must remain fluid. The feasibility of any wood product sales must be determined in light of this demand. Additionally, the use of roads in any proposed timber management plan needs to be coordinated with public demand for recreation opportunities. At that time a decision will be made as to whether roads will be closed or incorporated into this plan.

RMP Decisions (Range):

PR-19 "Provide 34,276 Animal Unit Months (AUMs) of forage annually for 15 years."

PR-20 "Improve 7,500 acres of fair condition range to good condition."

Activity Plan Objectives:

* Maintain the current grazing management for sheep and cattle.

Explanation:

The current grazing strategy is appropriate for existing conditions. The five allotments in the planning area are licensed for a total of 1,049 AUMs. There are approximately 2,100 acres of rangeland in fair condition in the Blackrock Allotment which will continue to improve under the current grazing regime.

RMP Decision (Cultural):

PC-22 "Manage cultural resources so that representative samples of the full range of scientific and socio-cultural values are maintained consistent with State and Federal laws."

Activity Plan Objective:

* Protect historical sites including the homestead cabin foundations at Katsilometes Spring.

Explanation:

There is some evidence of aboriginal use in Blackrock Canyon. Protection for all known sites as well as any discovered in the future is required by law.

A site preservation plan for the cabin foundation has been developed and awaits funding. The cultural resource specialist for the PRA will develop an interpretative sign for the foundation which will briefly explain the history of the area. The proposed interpretation is included in Appendix C.

RMP Decision (Recreation/Visuals):

PE-24 "Manage 246,481 acres for ORV designations of open, closed or limited."

PE-25 "Continue managing for dispersed recreation by maintaining existing recreational opportunity settings."

PE-26 "Manage the visual resources on lands adjacent to the Special Recreation Management Areas to maintain existing scenic qualities."

PE-27 "Protect existing and planned investments in developed recreation sites."

PE-28 "Recognize recreation as the principal use of the lands in the Pocatello SRMA. This area covers 32,532 acres."

Activity Plan Objectives:

- * Improve the main access road into the canyon
- * Restrict motor vehicle use during periods when soils are wet
- * Sign roads and trails throughout the canyon
- * Provide user facilities at the trail head
- * Identify possible locations for connector trails to improve travel loops through the area

Explanation:

All public land in the Pocatello Resource Area has had an ORV designation placed on it. The designations for the planning area are shown on Figure 3 along with the visual resource and scenery classes. This was originally accomplished through the implementation of the RMP/EIS in 1988.

The fragility of the soils and the expense of maintaining the road system in the planning area requires that the area be closed to vehicular activity during spring runoff and other wet periods. At those times, the roads are susceptible to rutting which causes accelerated erosion and increases maintenance costs for the area later.

For the purposes of visual resource management, retention of the existing tree and vegetative cover outside of timber harvest areas is desirable. This will be taken into account when determining the placement of facilities, roads and trails.

The existing designated road and trail layout will be retained as much as possible for a base. This is assumed to be the least costly approach to site development. It also maintains a reasonable amount of access for hunting and recreational driving.

Many of the recreation-related objectives would be accomplished by further development, modification or addition of roads and trails. Selected roads and trails would be relocated and some rehabilitated. Facilities (all handicap accessible) to be added to Blackrock Canyon proper include: toilets, loading and unloading ramps, and directional/interpretative signing (general list of signs in Appendix D). Development of trails and related facilities will be handled as a single project because they lend themselves to a coordinated plan and schedule. A project plan and schedule is also necessary for grant applications.

The Pocatello Resource Area will continue to coordinate planning efforts with those of other areas within the Pocatello SRMA. For example, in 1993 the BLM

completed a plan for the West Bench which coordinated BLM management with the management of lands administered by the Forest Service and the City of Pocatello.

RMP Decision (Soils):

PS-29 "Manage sensitive soils in the Pocatello R.A. to keep soil erosion at less than 5 tons/acre/year."

Activity Plan Objectives:

- * Monitor use and impacts
- * Protect area from further resource damage
- * Rehabilitate areas where resource damage has occurred
- * Establish seasonal ORV closure in coordination with other closures in the valley to prevent damage to wet soils

Explanation:

Since some of the soils in the planning area have a high erosion potential (Appendix A), trail placement and construction techniques are of critical concern. Where activities are causing erosion above the 5 tons/acre/year level, the activity will be modified and rehabilitation will be done to reduce erosion levels.

Across the valley, the West Bench has a seasonal closure that runs from November 1 through May 15 which is the same as the adjacent Forest Service restrictions. The BLM will be implementing a restriction in the Chinks Peak/Blackrock Canyon planning area from November 15 to April 15. The extra 15 days in November allow for access during big game hunting seasons in a very popular area. The April 15 opening date is a result of public input and analyses by the BLM. Typically this date is late enough in the year that the soil is dry and stable under ORV use. This date also allows the BLM to implement an emergency closure of the area should conditions be such that a latter season opening be warranted.

RMP Decision (Wildlife):

PI-37 Provide forage for 7,105 deer and 543 elk. Improve 3,682 acres of elk and deer winter range.

Activity Plan Objectives:

- * Protect wintering deer
- * Improve winter habitat for deer
- * Improve chukar habitat with water catchments

Explanation:

Wildlife management strategies appropriate for existing conditions do not conflict with the recreation occurring now. The number of deer wintering in the planning area varies from 200 to 1,500 depending on the severity of the winter. Approximately 200 acres near the Inkom Port of Entry have been identified for potential bitter brush plantings by volunteers to expand the existing stand (figure 4).

Wildlife management in the planning area does not require any special action at this time. In the future, the BLM intends to plant Hobbie Creek sagebrush, a particularly palatable variety, on burns when restorative work is appropriate.

The wildlife biologist on the Pocatello Resource Area will work with the Idaho Fish and Game Department to locate potential sites for guzzlers to enhance habitat for game, non-game, and upland birds.

RMP Decision (Protection):

PU-38 "Manage fire for the protection and enhancement of resource values such as livestock forage, wildlife habitat, and timber."

Activity Plan Objective:

- * Keep fire management plan up to date

Explanation:

Fire management is a major concern particularly because of the large amount of urban interface with wildlands around Pocatello. The high volume of recreational use increases the probability of accidental and intentional ignitions by users. The sagebrush/grass cover type is prone to large, fast-spreading fires.

All fire fighting entities in the Pocatello have formed an interagency compact called the Gateway Interagency Fire Front (GIFF). This allows for flexibility and coordination among the different departments that would respond to a fire in the planning area. This helps to insure a prompt and coordinated response to any fire reported in the canyon.

A fire management plan for the Idaho Falls District has been written and a copy is available for review in the Pocatello Resource Area office. The strategy for managing fires in Blackrock Canyon and Chink's Peak is covered under Fire Management Zone 1.

Other Goals and Objectives:

In addition to the above goals and objectives, the following objectives are the result of standards and policies of the BLM in their day-to-day management of the public lands:

Public Health and Safety objectives of the Activity Plan:

- * Clean up trash in the planning area
- * Develop safety zones and a restriction notice prohibiting indiscriminate recreational target shooting in Blackrock Canyon while allowing hunting
- * Identify any open and hazardous mine adits or prospects and either sign or close them in an appropriate manner
- * Identify law enforcement needs

Explanation:

There is a sporadic, but on-going effort to keep Blackrock Canyon clean. Volunteers have been used to gather trash and Bannock County has let the BLM dispose of the refuse at no cost in the landfill.

At this time, the majority of known abandoned mines is on the west side of Chink's Peak. The whole planning area needs to be checked for open workings. Those found will have to be checked for use by bats. Closure of the mine shafts where bats are present will be by barred gates and by filling where bats do not use the shafts or adits.

An increased law enforcement presence would help educate the public while alleviating some of the unauthorized activity that is now occurring and causing resource damage. This would also include a reduction in the indiscriminate/random shooting that is presently occurring.

In addressing the indiscriminate and sometimes hazardous shooting that occurs in the planning area, the activity plan will encourage and try to promote individuals to utilize the 2 ½ mile shooting range which is administered by the Gate City Sport Shooting Association. It is hoped that this will help to reduce the potential hazards associated with the shooting in the area.

III. CONSTRAINTS

Constraints are those restrictions on our management activities that are placed on the BLM by law, regulation, policy and previous management decisions. They include:

State and Federal Law:

Federal and State Laws have specific requirements about our responsibilities in managing public lands.

For instance, the National Environmental Policy Act requires documentation of the anticipated environmental effects of any BLM proposed actions. The Taylor Grazing Act and the Federal Land Policy and Management Act describe procedures for authorizing grazing and other land use authorizations. The Clean Water Act describes BLM responsibilities for water quality and runoff.

The BLM is required to comply with the State weed control laws and BLM's Final EIS on Vegetation Control on BLM Lands in Thirteen Western States. All weed control activities will be coordinated between the Bannock County Weed Control Supervisor and the Pocatello Resource Area Weed Coordinator.

Various Federal Regulations and Policies:

These include administrative procedures, existing rights-of way and permits and other authorizations which have legal obligations and rights which must be adhered to before changes can be made. Examples are grazing permits which have a set of regulations that must be followed before changes are made, and the public comment period required by some actions.

The BLM also has a "Good Neighbor Policy" that requires us to keep County Commissioners, other governmental agencies and adjacent landowners informed of BLM's activities that may impact them. To give an example, all future easements, land acquisitions and trail developments will be undertaken in cooperation with adjacent private landowners to protect private property rights, minimize conflicts, and still provide for the increase in demand for recreational opportunities.

In the selection of the preferred alternative for the Pocatello RMP, BLM managers chose to keep the public land base within the old Fort Hall Treaty boundary at the current total and not drop below the acreage that was present on January 8, 1988. Any exchanges within that boundary would have to result in no net loss of public land.

Current classes for the Recreation Opportunity Spectrum (ROS) and visual resource management classes will not be changed. Management activities undertaken will be done so under the guidelines for these designations.

IV. PLANNED ACTIONS

Figure 4 shows the location of various roads and trails and areas to be added to the system. The BLM is going to upgrade the main road system on Chinks Peak and in Blackrock Canyon, and provide off-road vehicle trails consistent with the current and projected demand. The following sections are in more detail as to the decisions and implementation strategy the BLM has made concerning this planning area.

A. IMPLEMENTATION:

1. Application for Grant Monies:

Once this plan is approved by the Pocatello Resource Area Manager, an application for grant funds for the following fiscal year will be made to the Idaho Department of Parks and Recreation for implementation of the recreation related portions of this plan.

Application for funds will be for those recreation activities and facilities related to Off-road vehicles, improvement of roads and trails for both motorized and non-motorized activities, and recreational vehicle access. All facilities implemented under this plan will be developed with the handicapped in mind and as prescribed by law. The funding will be in accordance with the development schedule shown on page 27 of this activity plan.

2. Blackrock Canyon Road:

The BLM will be relocating the main road through Blackrock Canyon. The existing road is currently located too close to the creek on unstable soils. During spring run-off it becomes muddy and nearly impassable. The road will be relocated, bladed, ditched and surfaced with gravel using a geo-textile mat under the surface to provide more stability for the road. This project will be started in the spring of 1995 and should be completed by early June. The project will be done in cooperation with the Bannock County Highway Department. The BLM design team will be guided by BLM road design standards in BLM Manual 9113.

3. Chinks Peak Road Realignment:

In 1996, this road is scheduled for realignment on the lower portion of the road. This is due in part to the steep grade which during periods of inclement weather results in the erosion of the road base. Some of this material is then deposited on the adjacent land owners private property and fills in the road culverts with soil. This realignment will be enhanced by the use of a geo-textile mat with fill material placed on top. This will occur on the lower approximate 3,600 feet of road. In April of 1995, a separate Environmental Analysis was prepared describing this project and the Blackrock Canyon road project.

4. Roads and Trails:

The roads and trails shown in figure 4 include portions that are on grades too steep for ORV or mechanical vehicle activity as well as trails that have been worn by continual use by users who leave the designated routes. The trails identified and appropriately marked will be closed, ripped or harrowed, and replanted with native plant seed. The other trails so marked will be rerouted as shown on the map to bring the slope of the road or trail to less than 10%. This will help reduce erosion to a level consistent with the Pocatello RMP/EIS.

In addition to the existing designated roads and trails, the BLM will be adding/rehabilitating the roads/trails identified below. Through the implementation of this plan, the entire planning area travel designations will be changed to **"Travel on Designated Routes Only"** with a seasonal restriction date of **November 15 to April 15**. This will be done through the publication of a Federal Register Notice which will be prepared within 60 days of approval of this activity plan.

- a) a connector trail between Blackrock Canyon and Caddy Canyon for vehicles 48 inches in width or smaller;
- b) change the designation on the current road that parallels the Right Hand Fork of Blackrock Creek from Katsilometes Spring to the top of the canyon from all motor vehicles to vehicles less than 48 inches in width, and move the existing road from the south side of the creek to the north side, (this will meet the objectives of this plan on grade and soil protection) ;
- c) change/reroute the road/trail that goes up the ridge north from Katsilometes Spring. Designate this route as open to any vehicle, thus allowing a loop road to remain in effect to the top of the canyon (goes through sec. 1 and 12, T. 7 S., R. 35 E.);

- d) close the existing route as designated in the NW 1/4 sec. 29, T. 6 S., R. 35 E. that comes off the hill adjacent to private property and onto Buckskin Road. Designate a vehicle route starting in the NW 1/4 sec. 29, T. 6 S., R. 35 E. and continues into the middle of section 30 and back onto Buckskin Road;
- e) Designate a non-motorized vehicle trail connecting Sorrel Canyon to the top of Caddy Canyon and on into Blackrock Canyon (when legal access can be obtained from the adjacent land owner);
- f) Closing/rehabilitating any other undesignated roads and trails in the planning area as per prescription of this plan and the existing RMP/EIS and Pocatello ORV plan;
- g) Designate a non-motorized vehicle trail from the top of Blackrock Canyon out through and connecting with Buckskin Road, but only if legal access can be obtained from the private land owner (This may eventually be a designated trail for all users).
- H) Designate the ridge road starting in T. 7 S., R. 36 E., sec. 6 and follows the ridge line between the Right Hand Fork of Blackrock to a point in T. 7 S., R. 36 E., sec. 13 as open to vehicles less than 48" in width (Ends at the BLM/private land section line in section 13)

The above roads/trails which are shown as being added to this plan may not be all of the opportunities available within the planning area. Any other future roads/trails for this area will be considered only after the existing problems are resolved and the currently proposed projects are implemented. At that time, a user advisory group will look at the current level of use and the road/trail density within the planning area to determine if any future projects are warranted.

5. Signs:

Signs are listed in appendix D. Signs will conform to standards prescribed in BLM manual 9130, standard Federal regulation recreation symbols and will be used. In some instances, orange Carsonite signs may be implemented for ease of installation, cost reduction, and visibility, but they too will utilize standard symbols and language.

6. Other Recreational Facilities:

a. Trail head

A parking lot approximately three quarters of an acres in size will be developed at the trail head area in Blackrock Canyon. This will occur at the current area identified as the "Mud Bogg Play Area". This will accommodate a loading/unloading ramp and parking for about 30 vehicles, with the possibility of future expansions. Parking spaces will be designed as pull-through to accommodate ORV trailers, horse trailers, and larger recreational vehicles.

In addition to the above facilities, a Kiosk will also be installed in Blackrock Canyon. This will be used to provide visitor use information (maps and brochures of the area), collection of visitor use data such as the type of activity occurring, length of stay, and number of members in each party.

b. Toilet

A vault toilet structure will be located at the main trail head in Blackrock Canyon. This unit will be handicap accessible. The toilet will be located a minimum of 50 or more feet from any water. Generally accepted handicapped accessible design standards will be followed (refer to Appendix E). The toilet will be vaulted to contain wastes. The vault shall be adequately vented in accordance with current technology to avoid build-up of vault odors inside the toilet structure. This facility will comply with BLM and State of Idaho Health and Welfare Department regulations and standards.

c. Gates, Fences and Barricades

Steel gates and fences will be located at main access points. These areas are:

- 1) Blackrock Canyon
- 2) Box Canyon
- 3) Caddy Canyon
- 4) Barton/Chinks Peak Road
- 5) Buckskin/Chinks Peak Road

This will restrict access and use in the area during critical periods when saturated soils are most subject to erosion (Appendix F). Fences and

barricades will be used to exclude use from areas not designated as open to vehicle travel. In places where a trail is being rehabilitated, a permanent barrier consisting of lava rock will be placed across the trail. In some areas posts may be substituted, but once the area has recovered, the posts will be removed. Fences will either be of a three strand barbed wire or post rail fence type construction. Both types of fences will comply with BLM construction standards.

7. Access Acquisition:

The accesses and land acquisitions shown on figure 4 and identified on pages 4 and 11 will be pursued as opportunities are made available.

8. Timber Management:

The BLM will periodically assess the demand for forest products and determine which demands could be reasonably met with a timber or wood products program based in the planning area. The plan will contain a strategy for the long-term management of the roads associated with the harvest program. Because of the sensitivity of the timber program within the planning unit, a separate timber activity plan will be prepared when the need is determined to be high enough to warrant further analysis.

9. Grazing:

No changes will be made in the number of grazing permits or livestock use at this time. On-going monitoring will continue, and if a downward trend in range condition occurs, adjustments to the permit will be made in accordance with procedures and regulations.

An isolated forty acre tract in section 15 (Allotment 0061) contains a spring which is used by cattle for water and a culinary water. The BLM will not lease this parcel of land for grazing and will fence the spring so livestock will not have access to the area.

10. Cultural:

A sign explaining the history of the area will be installed at the old cabin site. The cabin foundation will be filled in and stabilized to eliminate the current safety hazard posed by the hole in the ground. (See appendix C.)

11. Soils and Vegetation:

Roads and trails will be stabilized as described in part 3 above. Weeds in the canyon will be treated in cooperation with the Bannock County Weed Supervisor and within guidelines established in the BLM's Weed EIS.

12. Wildlife:

Suitable areas for bitter brush plantings will be identified and an effort will be made to increase the amount of bitter brush growing in the planning area. Whenever a wildfire occurs in a suitable area for rehabilitation, Hobbie Creek sagebrush will be seeded to increase the forage base for wintering deer.

The BLM will work with the Idaho Department of Fish and Game to assess the need for and possible locations for water catchments to benefit upland game and non-game wildlife. The catchments would be built with volunteer labor.

13. Public Safety (Indiscriminate Shooting):

Development of **Safety Zones** around trail heads, particularly in Blackrock Canyon, to exclude shooting within 150 yards of improvements, facilities, and the main Blackrock Canyon road up to and including a point at Katsilometes Spring will be implemented.

B. **MONITORING**

Effective ORV management (this includes motorized and non-motorized vehicles) requires an effective monitoring program. In order to establish the level of ORV use in the area, traffic counters will be located at the major access points and counts will be recorded on a regular basis.

To ensure that erosion on the trails does not exceed 5 tons of soil per acre, selected trails will be monitored for erosion. Data will be compiled in a series of graphs to compare year-to-year changes in the soil depth. Photographic records of these erosion transects will be kept, as well. If it is determined that erosion is greater than the threshold established in the RMP, the trail will be modified in slope, water barred or closed as necessary.

Monitoring for range condition has occurred for several years and will continue with range trend plots, photo transects and browse utilization transects. In addition,

Ecological Site Inventories will be conducted approximately every 10 years for long-range assessment of condition.

Monitoring of the Cultural resources within the planning unit will be accomplished on a yearly basis through visual observations. If it is determined that damage is occurring to this resource, a stabilization plan will be developed by the BLM.

C. DEVELOPMENT SCHEDULE

The magnitude of this project, coupled with the anticipated activity cost targets, dictates that implementation be phased in over 5 years. Work for each phase is described below. It should be noted that even though this plan is scheduled over a 5 year time frame, if the money does not come with the project(s), the life of the project implementation will be extended accordingly.

1. Phase One

On-going - A cleanup for the Blackrock Canyon area was done in August 1993 using volunteers from the community. Clean-ups will be conducted as needed. A gate has been installed at the mouth of Blackrock Canyon to control ORV use during the spring runoff period.

2. Phase Two

Phase two includes rerouting of the main Blackrock Canyon Road, construction of a parking lot, installation of signs and barriers. Due to the expense of this action, it will be done over a 2 year period.

Starting with this phase of the project, an application for State of Idaho Grant money will be applied for. This will include but not be limited to the completion and implementation of the rest of the project as outlined. (Including a map/brochure of the area for user use)

3. Phase Three

The third phase includes fencing closed/restricted areas in the planning area, installing additional gates, and the rehabilitation of selected trails in Blackrock Canyon and on Chink's Peak. This includes the realignment of the main Chinks Peak Road.

4. Phase Four

This phase of the project would consist of any current road/trail maintenance or reconstruction work. This phase shall be completed prior to any start up work in phase five. This phase will also include the application for any State of Idaho Department of Recreation grant monies that can be obtained, including the possible use of their trail cat for the maintenance and reconstruction of the identified roads/trails.

5. Phase Five

The last phase will include toilet installation at the Blackrock Canyon trail head. Construction will begin on any new trails as identified.

***Note:** Completion of each phase depends on availability of funds. Maintenance will be started as soon as either money is made available for the projects or when volunteer services and equipment are available.

V. PRELIMINARY PROJECT COST ESTIMATES

A. Phase 1

* Project Administration/Grant Application	\$ 1,000
* Installation of gate at the mouth of Blackrock	\$ 2,000
* Stabilization of Katsilometes Cabin foundation	<u>\$ 1,000</u>
	\$ 4,000

B. Phase 2

* Improve/Relocate main Blackrock Canyon Road (ditch, drain, gravel 1.3 miles/\$13,700)	\$ 10,700
* Parking lot	\$ 5,000
* Barriers	
9 tank traps (\$336 each)	\$ 3,024
20 posts (\$7 each)	\$ 140
* Signs	<u>\$ 6,652</u>
	\$ 25,516

C. Phase 3

* Fencing (four strand fence at entrance)	\$ 1,140
* Installation of 4 gates (2 at the Chinks Peak entrance and 2 others at Blackrock)	\$ 10,500
* Chinks Peak Road realignment	<u>\$ 10,000</u>
	\$ 21,640

D. Phase 4

* Handicap accessible toilet	\$ 12,000
* 5 miles of trail reconstruction/maintenance (\$5000/mile)	<u>\$ 25,000</u>
	\$ 37,000

E. Phase 5

* Interpretation of historical site	\$ 750
* Signs	\$ 2,000
* Barricades	\$ 3,000
* Write and print ORV brochure with map	\$ 2,500
* 5 Miles of new trail construction (\$5,000/mi)	<u>\$ 25,000</u>
	\$ 33,250

TOTAL ESTIMATED PROJECT COST = \$121,406

F. Yearly maintenance costs

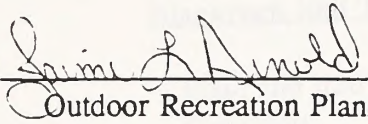
* Toilet pumping	\$ 350
* Sign and fence replacement	\$ 1,500
* Monitoring	\$ 1,500
* Road, trail and facility maintenance	\$ 1,000
* Volunteer trash clean-up projects	<u>\$ 160</u>
Total	\$ 4,510

G. Land Exchanges and Easement Acquisitions

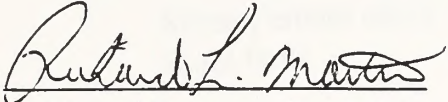
These will be done as time and priority allow. Little is required in terms of cash outlay for exchanges of land or exchanges where an easement is acquired in trade for public land. The majority of the cost in these cases is in work months.

**VI. CONCURRENCE APPROVAL AND ANALYZED IN ENVIRONMENTAL
ANALYSIS NO. ID-030-95051**

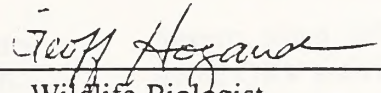
The Blackrock Canyon Coordinated Management Plan as set forth in this document is:

Prepared and
Recommended by: 
Outdoor Recreation Planner
Pocatello Resource Area

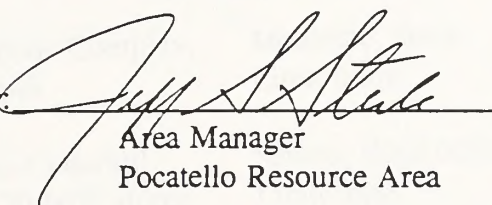
Date: 05/24/95

Prepared and
Recommended by: 
Natural Resource Specialist
Pocatello Resource Area

Date: 5/24/95

Prepared and
Recommended by: 
Wildlife Biologist
Pocatello Resource Area

Date: 5/25/95

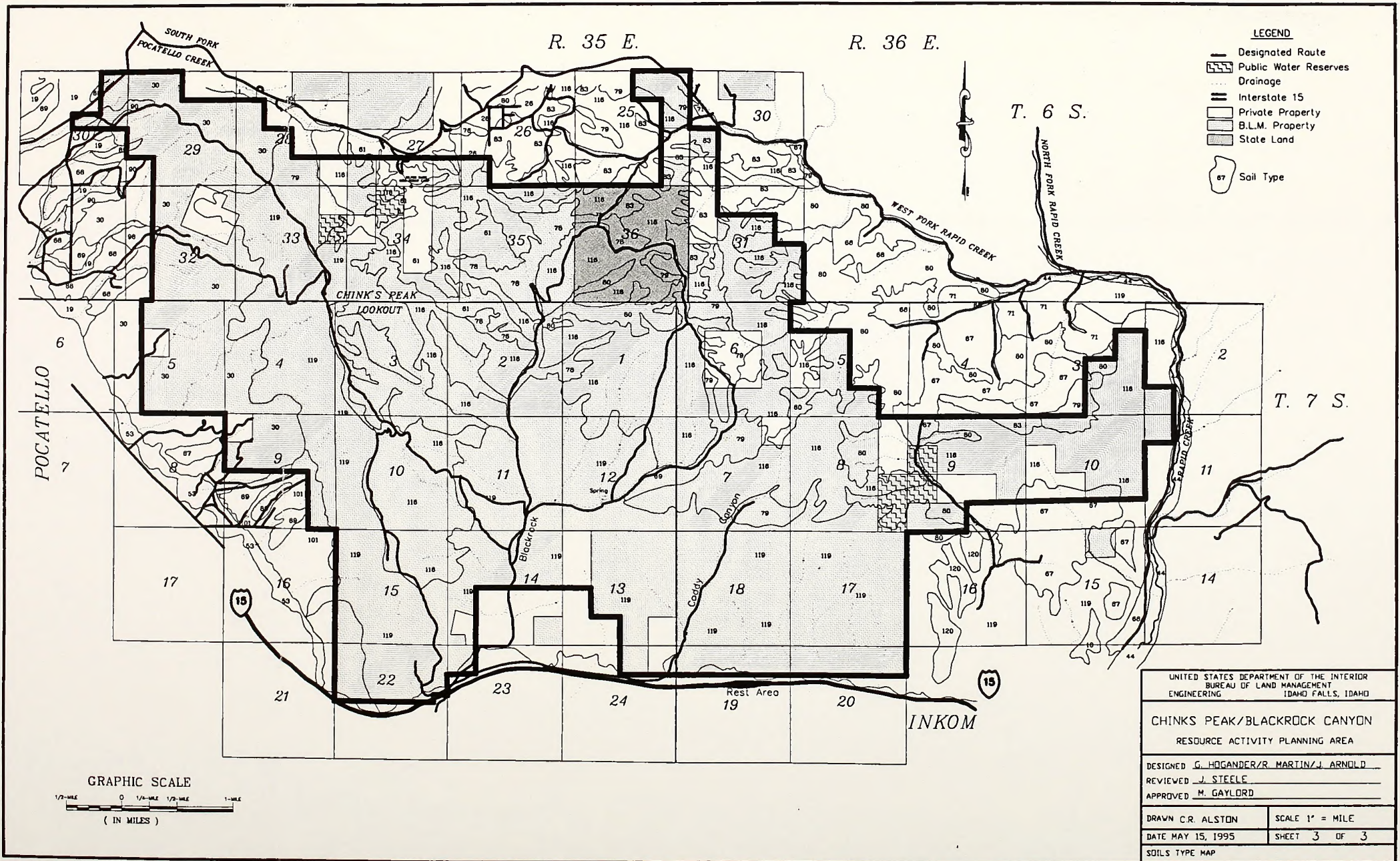
Approved by: 
Area Manager
Pocatello Resource Area

Date: 5/25/95

APPENDIX A: Soils

<u>Blackrock Soil Types</u>			
Map Unit	Name	Road and trail <u>Capability</u>	Erosion <u>Potential</u>
10 - Bancroft silt loam,	12-20% slopes	Severe, erodes easily Limit trails	High
19 - Broncho Variant-Pocatello Complex,	20-50% slopes	Severe, slope concern Avoid ORV activity	Very High
30 - Cedarhill-Ririe-Water-canyon Complex,	30-60% slopes	Severe, slope, erodes easily avoid ORV activity	Very High
53 - Hondoho-Arbone Complex,	4-12% slopes	Moderate, dusty Limit trails	Medium
61 - Ireland-Hades-Cedarhill complex,	20-60% slopes	Severe, slope concern Limit trails	High
66 - Lanoak silt loam,	4-12% slopes	Severe, erodes easily	High
67 - Lanoak silt loam,	12-20% slopes	Severe, erodes easily Limit trails	High
71 - Lanoak-Greys association,	12-20% slopes	Severe, erodes easily Limit trails	High
78 - Moonlight silt loam,	30-60% slopes	Severe, slope concerns Avoid ORV activity	Very High
79 - Moonlight-Camelback association,	30-60% slopes	Severe, slope concerns Avoid ORV activity	Very High
80 - Moonlight-Pavohroo association,	30-60% slopes	Severe, slope concerns Avoid ORV activity	Very High
83 - Pavohroo-Moonlight complex,	30-60% slopes	Severe, slope concerns Avoid ORV activity	Very High

87 - Pocatello Silt loam, 1-4% slopes	Severe, erodes easily	High
88 - Pocatello Silt loam, 4-8% slopes	Severe, erodes easily Limit trails	High
89 - Pocatello Silt loam, 8-12% slopes	Severe, erodes easily Limit trails	High
90 - Pocatello Silt loam, 12-20% slopes	Severe, erodes easily Avoid ORV activity	Very High
101 - Ririe-Watercanyon complex, 12-20% slopes	Severe, erodes easily Avoid ORV activity	High
105 - Rubble land-Haploxerolls complex, steep	Not rated Avoid ORV activity	High
113 - Urban land-Bahem-Broxon complex, 0-3% slopes	Severe, erodes easily Limit trails	High
115 - Valmar very cobbly silt loam, low precipitation, 40-80% slopes	Severe, slope concerns Avoid ORV activity	High
116 - Valmar-Camelback-Hades complex, 30-60% slopes	Severe, slope concerns Limit trails	Very High
119 - Valmar, low precipitation- Watercanyon-Hondoho complex, 20-50% slopes	Severe, slope concerns, erodes easily Avoid ORV activity	Very High



APPENDIX B: Vegetation/Wildlife: grasses, shrubs, trees, weeds

GRASSES

1. blue bunch wheat grass, *Pseudoroegneria spicata*
2. Kentucky bluegrass, *Poa pratensis*
3. Sandburg's bluegrass, *Poa sandbergii*
4. cheat grass, *Bromus tectorum*
5. Japanese brome, *Bromus japonicus*
6. Great Basin wild rye, *Leymus cinereus*
7. mountain brome, *Bromus carinatus*
8. blue rye, *Elymus glauca*
9. needle and thread grass, *Stipa comata*
10. Nevada bluegrass, *Poa nevadensis*
11. intermediate wheat grass, *Elytrigia intermedia*
12. crested wheat grass, *Agropyron cristatum*
13. slender wheat grass, *Elymus trachycaulus*
14. smooth brome, *Bromus inermis*
15. hair grass, *Deschampsia caespitosa*
16. annual bluegrass, *Poa annua*
17. Indian ricegrass, *Oryzopsis hymenoides*
18. June grass, *Koeleria cristata*
19. squirreltail, *Elymus elymoides*

SHRUBS

1. mountain sagebrush, *Artemisia tridentata* var. *vaseyana*
2. three-tip sagebrush, *Artemisia tripartita*
3. prairie sage, sagewort, *Artemisia ludoviciana*
4. tarragon, dragon sage, *Artemisia dracunculus*
5. bitter brush, *Purshia tridentata*
6. service berry, *Amelanchior alnifolia*
7. grey rabbit brush, *Chrysothamnus nauseosus*
8. green rabbit brush, *Chrysothamnus viscidiflorous*
9. silver sage, *Artemisia cana*
10. horse brush, *Tetradymia canescens*
11. snakeweed or match brush, *Gutierrezia sarothrae*
12. buckbrush or buckthorn, *Ceanothus velutinus*
13. buckwheat, *Eriogonum spp.*

TREES

1. big tooth maple, *Acer grandidentatum*
2. Rocky Mountain Maple, *Acer glabrum*
3. choke cherry, *Prunus virginiana*
4. Douglas-fir, *Pseudotsuga menzeisii*
5. mountain ash, *Sorbus scopulina*
6. Utah juniper, *Juniperus utahensis*
7. willow, *Salix spp.*

FORBS

1. brodiaea, *Brodiaea douglasii*
2. sego lily, *Calochortus nuttallii*
3. fritillary, *Fritillaria pudica*
4. foothill death camus, *Zigadenus paniculatus*
5. fiddleneck, *Amsinckia retorsra*
6. loco weed, *Astragalus purshii*
7. hood's phlox, *Phlox hoodii*
8. long-leaf phlox, *Phlox longifolia*
9. browse milkweed, *Astragalus cibarius*
10. coneflower, *Rudbeckia occidentalis*
11. meadow rue, *Thalictrum occidentale*
12. microsteris, *Microsteris gracilis*
13. bindweed or morning glory, *Convolvulus arvensis*
14. blue-eyed Mary, *Collinsia parviflora*
15. buttercup, *Ranunculus glaberrimus*
16. buttercup, *Ranunculus jovis*
17. houndstongue, *Cynoglossum officinale*
18. waterleaf, *Hydrophyllum capitatum*
19. nine-leaf lomatium, *Lomatium triternatum*
20. tapertip hawks beard, *Crepis acuminata*
21. sunflower, *Helianthus annus*
23. watercress, *Rorippa nasturtium var. aquaticum*
24. lupine, *Lupinus bicolor*
25. low larkspur, *Delphinium nelsoni*
26. tall larkspur, *Delphinium oecidentalis*

WEEDS

1. dyers woad, *Isatis tinctoria*
2. purple-stamen mullein, *Verbascum virgatum*
3. mullein, *Verbascum thapsis*

WILDLIFE

The area supports a substantial wintering population of mule deer, *Odocoileus hemionus*. Other animals that are commonly found in the Blackrock Canyon and immediate vicinity are:

1. coyote, *Canis latrans*
2. badger, *Taxidea taxus*
3. whitetail jackrabbit, *Lepus townsendi*
4. deer mouse, *Peromyscus maniculatus*
5. sagebrush lizard, *Sceloporus graciosus*
6. gopher snake, *Pituophis melanoleucus*
7. black-capped chickadee, *Parus atricapillus*
8. Brewer's sparrow, *Spizella breweri*
9. mountain bluebird, *Sialia currucoides*
10. western meadowlark, *Sturnella neglecta*
11. gray partridge, *Perdix perdix*
12. sage grouse, *Centrocercus urophasianus*
13. magpie, *Pica pica*
14. red-tail hawk, *Buteo jamaicensis*

APPENDIX C: Site interpretation at Katsilometes Spring

An interpretive sign for the "Katsilometes Cabin" area may say, "This 160 acre parcel of land was first patented to B.Thomas Morris in 1917. Mr. Morris built the house that used to stand here and made a living herding sheep in these hills. He may have constructed the adjacent shearing corral as well. The land was later sold to the Katsilometes family, who also grazed sheep here. Apparently, the house was used by Mexican sheep herders until they no longer needed it and intentionally burned it down. The Bureau of Land Management acquired this property and the historic structures on it through a land exchange in 1978. **Please help us preserve these structures by leaving them as you found them.**"

APPENDIX D: Sign List

1) Entrance Signs

Text: **Entering Vehicle¹ Restriction Area**
Travel Permitted on Designated Routes Only to Protect soil and
Other Natural Resource Values.

Seasonal closure from Nov. 15 to April 15
(on the bottom of the sign:)
"Violations punishable by 43 CFR 8364.1 D"

Total needed: 5

Custom sign, laser cut, 36" X 36", includes 4X4 steel posts (5)

TOTAL ESTIMATED COST: \$5000.00

2) Seasonal closure:

Text: **SEASONAL CLOSURE**
Area Behind Sign Closed to All Vehicles
November 15 to May 15 to Protect Soil and Other Natural Resource
Values.

Brown sign with white lettering, and pictures of vehicles above the text.

Total needed: 10

Cost of signs: \$130.00

Posts: \$ 7.00 each

TOTAL ESTIMATED SIGN COST: \$ 200.00

¹Vehicle is all inclusive of motorized and non-motorized. This includes bicycles. See definition in Glossary of terms. ¹

3) Closed Areas

Text: **CLOSED ROUTE
THE ROAD/TRAIL BEHIND THIS SIGN IS
CLOSED TO ALL VEHICLES TO PREVENT EROSION
DURING REHABILITATION OF THE AREA.**

Brown sign with white lettering, and pictures of motorcycle, ATV and jeep (with line through them) above the text.

Total needed: 24

Cost of signs: 24 at \$15 = \$360.00

Posts: 24 X \$ 7.00 = \$168.00

TOTAL ESTIMATED SIGN COST: \$ 528.00

4) Limited Use Areas

Text: **LIMITED USE AREA
VEHICLES LESS THAN 48" IN WIDTH ONLY
LIMITED TO DESIGNATED ROADS AND TRAILS**

**LIMITED USE AREA
CLOSED TO MOTORIZED VEHICLES - OPEN TO ALL
OTHER VEHICLES ON DESIGNATED ROUTES ONLY**

Brown sign with white lettering, and pictures of vehicles above text.

Total needed: 16

Cost of signs: 16 at \$ 15 = \$ 240.00

Posts: 16 X \$ 7.00 = \$ 112.00

TOTAL ESTIMATED SIGN COST: \$352.00

5) Sign for main road entering Chinks Peak/Blackrock Canyon

Text: **GATE AHEAD - AREA CLOSED TO ALL VEHICLES FROM Nov 15 TO APRIL 15**

* custom sign 16" X 20" includes wood post (2)

Total needed: 3

Cost of signs: 3 at \$70.00 = \$210.00

Posts: 3 X \$7.00 = \$ 21.00

TOTAL ESTIMATED SIGN COST: \$241.00

6) Designated Routes

Text: **DESIGNATED ROUTE**

Total needed: 24

Cost of signs: 24 at \$15.00 = \$360.00

Posts: 24 X \$ 7.00 = \$168.00

TOTAL ESTIMATED COST: \$ 528.00

7) Miscellaneous Signs

Text: **No Dumping**
 Safety Zone - No Shooting

Total needed: 30

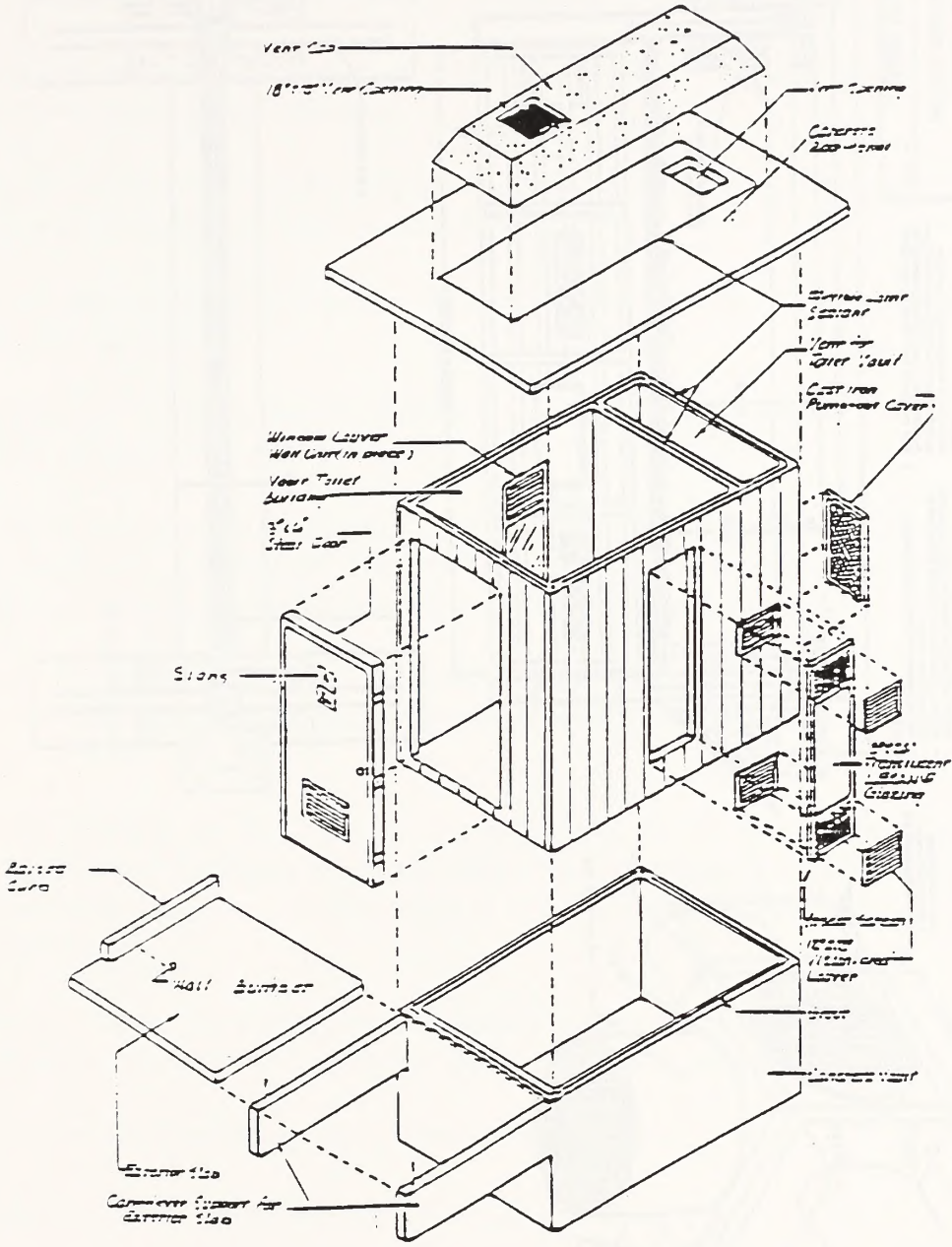
BLM standard Sign, S-4, 11" X 14", no cost

BLM standard Sign, S-___???

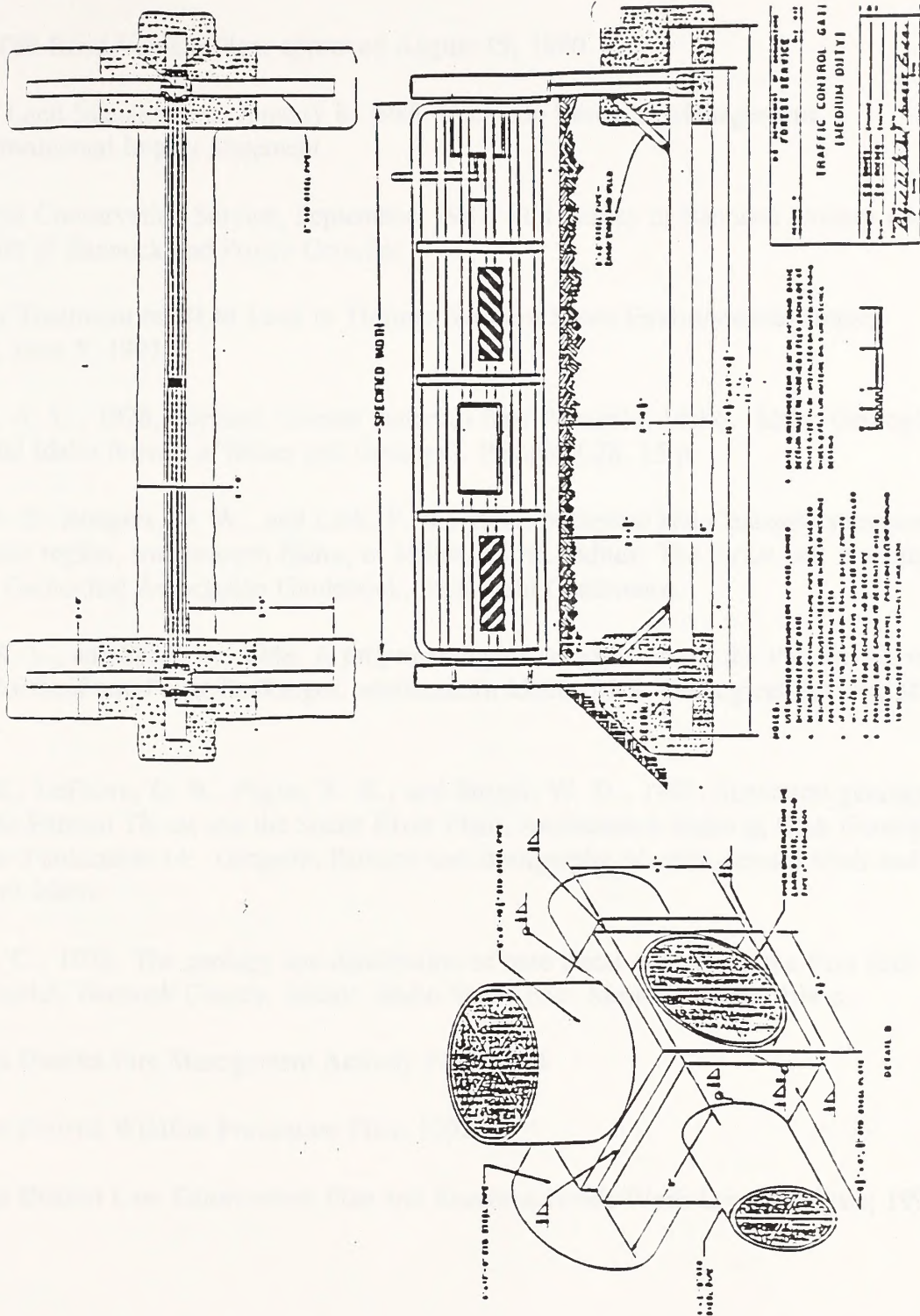
Posts: \$ 7.00 X 10 = \$70.00

TOTAL ESTIMATED SIGN COST: \$ 70.00

APPENDIX E: Diagram for Handicap Accessible Toilet



NOTE: Detail No. 03421A, modified without concrete setting.



APPENDIX G: References

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Idaho Falls District Fire Management Activity Plan; 1994

Idaho Falls District Wildfire Prevention Plan; 1992

Idaho Falls District Law Enforcement Plan and Resource Needs/Work Load Analysis; 1993

APPENDIX H: Consultation and Coordination

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JIM WILLIAMS
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DEMAR GILBERT
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APPENDIX I: Process Used to Evaluate Public Comments:

Once the comment period for the Chink's Peak/Blackrock Canyon Resource Activity Plan was over, the BLM Planning Team reviewed all comments received. As comment sheets were received, they were issued a number to ease tracking of the comments latter.

The first step in the evaluation process was to identify all the issues/main points in each comment sheet. As there was some overlap between the issues derived from the public comment, those overlap issues were categorized and put onto a spread sheet. The team then placed the comment sheet number that coincided with each individual issue/category. From here, the team was able to depict the issues that were most prominent. The team comment summary was then attached to the original public comment sheet.

After all of the issues were identified and each comment sheet number was placed in the proper issue section, the team was able to identify and rank, based solely on the number of times each issue was raised, what the most important issue was for this planning process.

The top 10 issues were addressed and identified in the alternative. Even though some issues did not rank out as high, they were not forgotten, and may be considered/utilized in later stages of this planning process.

Meeting the needs of the Resources is the number one issue that must be met in driving the alternatives/options available for this plan and subsequent Environmental Assessment. Therefore, in the implementation and justification for the preferred alternative, each of the issues raised by the public was weighed against the effects and impacts on the resources.

**CHINKS PEAK/BLACKROCK CANYON
PUBLIC COMMENT TABLE OF ANALYSIS
AND BLM TEAM RANKING**

ISSUES	# OF COMMENTS FOR EACH ISSUE	TOTAL NO. OF COMMENTS (SCORE)	Ranking without adding points	RANKING BASED ON COMMENTS	TEAM ASSIGNED RANKING
Indiscriminate Shooting (Control of & Place to)	2, 5, 7, 8, 14, 15, 16, 18, 26, 27	10 + 5 = 15	#2 Tie	Tie #2	6
Closure Dates-For Existing as proposed 11/15-5/15 or 11/1-5/15 (also include snowmobile rest)	2, 5, 11, 14, 16, 22, 23, 24, 28	9 + 3 = 12	#3	Tie #3	
Closure Dates - Change from 11/5 - 5/15	7, 9, 10, 13, 14, 20, 21	7	#4 Tie	Tie #7	Tie #7
Manage Motorized Vehicles (ORVs) (Damage, Where Can go & Enhanced Opportunities)	1, 3, 5, 6, 7, 15, 16, 18, 21, 24, 27, 28	12 + 5 = 17	#1	#1	1
Litter Management	2, 6, 16, 18, 26	5 + 5 = 10	#5 Tie	Tie #4	8
Enforcement (minimize Regs if Possible, Higher visibility, Coop. Law w/County & Hammer Violators)	1, 2, 5, 9, 12, 14, 15, 16, 26, 27	10 + 5 = 15	#2 Tie	Tie #2	2
Deer Winter Range (Impacts on Wildlife)	5, 6, 16	3 + 5 = 8		#6	Tie #7
Non-Motorized Trail Availability	5, 26	2			10
Reconstruct Trails on Proper Slope to Minimize Soil Impacts	5, 8, 9, 16, 28	5 + 5 = 10	#5 Tie	Tie #4	3
Signing/I&E	1, 5, 7, 9, 14, 16, 18	7 + 5 = 12	#4 Tie	Tie #3	4
Improve Road in Bottom of Blackrock Canyon	1, 17	2 + 5 = 7		Tie #7	5
Play Area (Mud Hole)	1	1			
Leave Rd in Bottom Open- Restrict Areas out of Bottom	1, 12	2			

**CHINKS PEAK/BLACKROCK CANYON
PUBLIC COMMENT TABLE OF ANALYSIS
AND ELM TEAM RANKING**

ISSUES	# OF COMMENTS FOR EACH ISSUE	TOTAL NO. OF COMMENTS (SCORE)	Ranking without adding points	RANKING BASED ON COMMENTS	TEAM ASSIGNED RANKING
*Plan As Is (overall Support)	3,4,18,19,20	5			Tie #9
*This part has been added to each section indicated in bold numbers as the comments have supported the over all plan. The issues identified in the plan where given 5 additional points, except for the proposed restriction dates. The proposed dates were given only 3 points as some of the comments supporting this section only wanted a change in season restriction.					
Acquire Access - Specific to Moonlight/Buckskin (County Road into Blackrock)	5,17,21,28	4 + 5 = 9		#5	
Grazing	6,14	2			
Riparian Issue	6	1			Tie #9
Archaeological Concerns (For Interp. or no Interp.)	8,14	2			
Logging	8,14,16,25,28	5 + 5 = 10	#5 Tie	Tie #4	
Facility Construction (Yes or No)	9, 28	2			
Other	25, 26, 28	3			

Glossary of Terms

All-Terrain Vehicles (ATV's) - Any recreation vehicle with two or more tires, under 600 lbs and less than 48 inches wide, traveling on low pressure tires less than 5 psi and designed to be ridden by one person.

Animal Unit Month (AUM) - The amount of forage needed to support one cow, one cow and calf or five sheep for one month. It is about 950 lbs. of air-dry vegetation.

Lithic scatters - an area where a Native American chipped arrowheads and stone tools. It is a place where you find stone chips of obsidian, chert, agate, etc.

Off-Road Vehicle (ORV) - This is a class of motorized vehicles designed primarily for riding on unpaved roads and trails. They include motorcycles, jeeps, 4-wheel drive pickups and sport utility vehicles (for example, Suzuki Samurai, Chevrolet Blazer), All-Terrain Vehicles snowmobiles and snowcats (Thiokols).

RMP, Resource Management Plan - Pocatello Resource Management Plan is a long-term planning document which was completed and signed on January 8, 1988. Several Resource management decisions were made in this document which are outlined on pages 3-10. A copy of the RMP is available in the Pocatello Resource Area

ROS - Recreation Opportunity Spectrum, - A continuum used to characterize recreation opportunities in terms of setting, activity, and experience opportunities. The spectrum contains six classes which are: 1) Primitive, 2) Semi-Primitive non-motorized, 3) Semi-Primitive Motorized, 4) Roaded Natural, 5) Rural, 6) Modern Urban.

Roaded Natural - is part of the ROS and is identified by the following six characteristics:

- 1) Opportunity to affiliate with other users in developed sites but with some chance of privacy. Self-reliance on outdoor skill of only moderate importance. Little challenge and risk.
- 2) Mostly natural appearing environmental as viewed from sensitive roads and trails.
- 3) Interaction between users at camp sites is of moderate importance
- 4) Some obvious on site controls of users
- 5) Access and travel is conventional motorized including sedan, trailers, RV's, and some motor homes
- 6) Vegetative alterations done to maintain desired visual and recreational characteristics

Scenic Quality - a measure of the visual appeal of the land based on landform, vegetation, water, color, adjacent scenery, scarcity and cultural modifications. Scenic quality is rated low, medium or high in this document and shown on Figure 3 as a letter behind a roman numeral.

SRMA, Special Recreation Management Area - an area either administratively or Congressionally recognized that possesses outstanding recreation resources or where recreation use causes significant user conflicts, visitor safety problems, or resource damage.

Vehicle: - any device used for transporting personnel or material with wheels, tracks, or skids for traveling over land, water, or snow, and is propelled by a living or nonliving power source contained or carried on or within the device. Includes bicycles.

Visual Resource Management (VRM) - the inventory and planning actions taken to identify visual values and to establish objectives for managing those values; and the management actions taken to achieve the visual management objectives.

II - VRM class objective. The objective of this class is to retain the existing character of the landscape. The level of change to the characteristic landscape should be low. Management activities may be seen, but should not attract the attention of the casual observer. Any changes must repeat the basic elements of form line color and texture found in the predominant natural features of the characteristic landscape.

III class objective. The objective of this class is to partially retain the existing character of the landscape. The level of change to the characteristic landscape should be moderate. Management activities may attract the attention but should not dominate the view of the casual observer. Changes should repeat the basic elements found in the predominant natural features of the characteristic landscape.

IV class objective - The objective of this class is to provide for management activities which require major modifications of the existing character of the landscape. The level of change to the characteristic landscape can be high. These management activities may dominate the view and be the major focus of viewer attention. However, every attempt should be made to minimize the impact of these activities through careful location, minimal disturbance, and repeating basic elements.

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